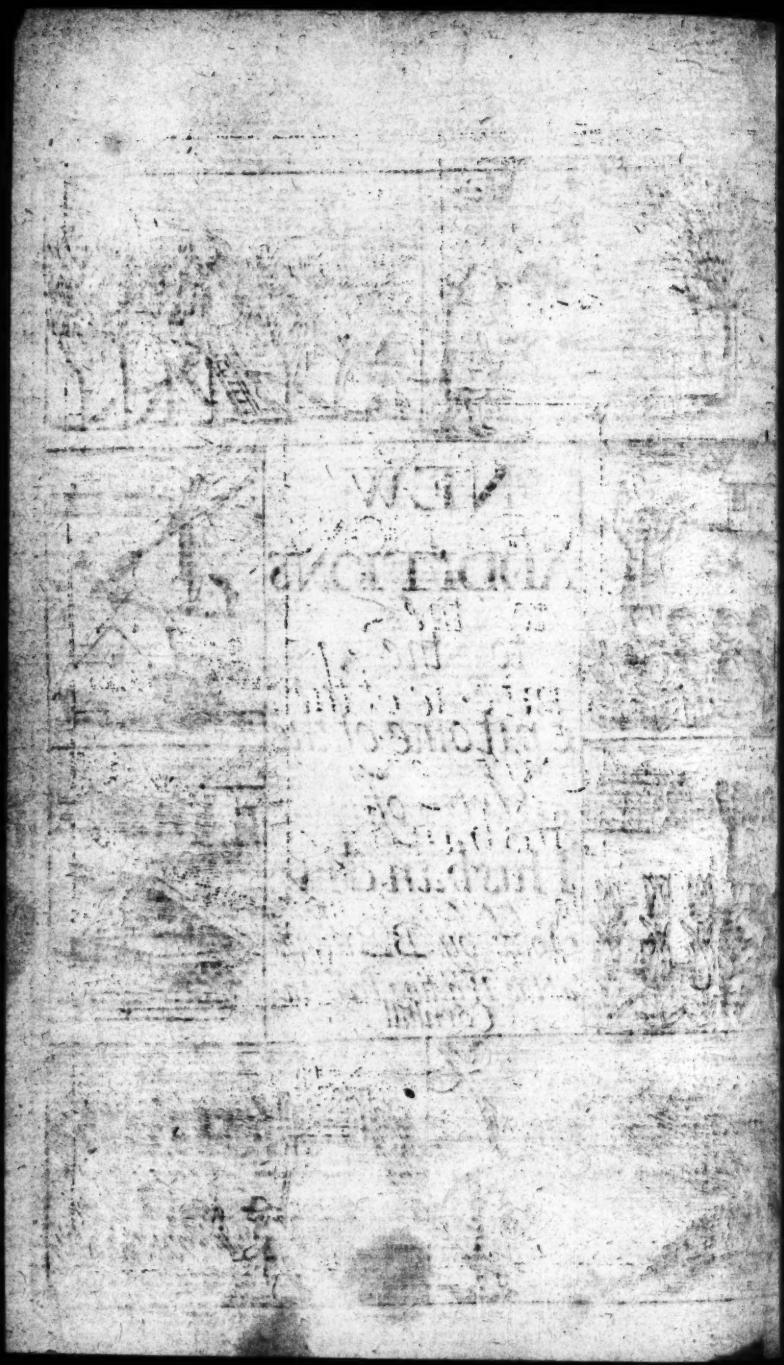
NEW ADDITIONS to the Epitome of the Art of Husbandry

Sold by B. Billinge at the Printing Press in Cornhill.



NEW ADDITIONS TO THE Art of Husbandry.

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A new way of Enriching Meadows, Deſtroying of Moles, making Tulips of any Colour.

With an approved way for ordering of Fiſh and Fiſh-Ponds, and deſtroying the Hern; and to take Carp or Tench in any muddy Pond.

How to take all manner of Birds, Small and Great with Birdlime.

To make Cabbidges and Garden-Beans grow large in any Barren Ground.

A new way to deſtroy all manner of Field Mice.

How to make Arbors become as Shady in one year as in ſeven. To water an Orchard after a new Faſhion. To make old decayed Fruit-Trees become great Bearers, and watriſh Fruit to become firm and ſweet. Alſo how to Order Melons, Cucumbers, and Pompions.

With a brief way to Set and Sow all manner of Phyſical Herbs, that they may thrive and proſper.

And the true way for drying of Herbs, in plain and eaſie Directions; and all to be performed with very little Charge.

With directions for Breeding and Ordering all ſorts of Singing-Birds; With Remedies for their ſeveral Maladies, not before publickly made known.

LONDON, Printed for *Benjamin Billingſley*, at the Sign of the Printing-Preſs in *Cornhil*, 1675.

NEW ADDITIONS TO THE Art of Husbandry.

How to enrich and make Barren, Mossy, Spiry Medows become Rich, and bear Knot-grass, that so one Acre shall be worth three.

WHen you intend to undertake this profitable Labour and Improvement; consider the Meadow how it lies, low or high, upon a level or descending, and whether any River or Ditch lie convenient to water it or not; and if it be by a River, if you can convey the Water out again having once turned it over the Meadow, then be mindful of the burden it bears, whether Spiry, or Rushy, or Clean, being only over-topped with abundance of Moss; if the Medow lie descending, you have a great deal the advantage of a flat Medow, by reason the Water having over-flowed the Meadow some certain time, leaves a great soyl after a sudden Rain,

and upon the fall of the Water ſinks from the Meadow, and ſo the Meadow becomes dry with little or no trouble, and ſo the Water not lying long upon the Meadow (without it runs) makes the Meadow become very fruitful; which if it lay ſome certain time without draining, would ſo chill the Ground, that it would not be one farthing advantage for the watering. Now the flat Meadow that lies lower than the River muſt be ordered thus; You muſt make one large Drain through the middle of the Meadow, and ſeveral leading Drains to it, then the River lying higher, the Meadow will overflow with little trouble: But then the chief Work and Labour will be how to drain this Meadow dry, that ſo the Water may not lie ſugging upon the Ground; it not only makes the Ground breed Moſſy and Spiry Graſs, but alſo it will prove ſo rotten, that it will not bear a Cart to carry off its Burden, therfore order it thus: Having made your Trenches, and a large one in the loweſt part of the Meadow, if any be, then having a large Trench made to carry about a foot Water, if you can make it out of a whole piece of Wood or Timber, for it is much better than Planks, and will laſt far longer; when you have hewed your piece of Timber, made it with what Current you can, then clap a good Plank together at top with Pitch and Tow, then nail him while it is warm, and it will lie many years before it decay; having thus fitted your Current to convey the Water from your flat Meadow, lay him croſs that River two foot lower than the bottom of the Meadow, and then the Water will drain under the River into the next Ground, where you muſt make a large Drain or ſmall Ditch to convey it fur-

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ther, where you may have more conveniency to dispose of your Water; these low Meadows which are commonly the worst by reason the Water lies on till the heat of the Sun dries it off, which if the Water could be conveyed off quickly, would be extraordinary rich, which I never could see a better way in all my Travels than this, to perform with speed and cheapness; they throw out the Water of flat Meadows in *Poland* and *Sprussia* over the Banks with certain Wind-mills, which is a great deal of trouble and charge. Having now finished this Work, to lay your Meadow dry when your pleasure is, without it be extraordinary Rainy Weather, the next thing is to destroy your Moss, Rushes and Spiery Grass, which most Meadows that lie low are subject to: Towards the latter end of *February* scour all your Drains both great and small, and lay it as dry as possibly may be, (mending the Banks of the River, if any be wanting against *March*, which very seldom proves otherwise than a very dry windy month; when you have layed it dry for some certain time, and you shall then begin to perceive the Moss and Rowel to grow Russet and Dry, then observing your time to be dry and windy, carry down a bundle of Straw or Fern, strew it upon one side, that so having set it on fire the Wind may drive it quite through the Meadow; and where you perceive the Moss any thing damp or wet, strew some Straw or Fern upon it, and set it on Fire, and you will find in a short time your Meadows to be burnt as smooth as a Bowling-Green. Having thus devoured by fire your Moss and course Grass, then with a Harrow, harrow your Meadow over once or twice, then take some Hay-Seeds and sow up and down

the Meadow, then with the Mold that comes out of the cleanſing of the Ditches, ſpread all over the Meadow, that ſo the Hay-Seeds may be covered; and when you find the Hay-Seeds ſprung up and ſettled, if the weather be very dry, you may turn the Water over for a night, and turn it out again, and be ſure you leave no ſtanding Water, for that will preſently kill the young Graſs. Obſerving theſe Rules, the next year you will find that Improvement, that one Acre will be worth two, and a double burthen with much better Graſs; for the Moſs being burnt away with the heat of the fire, which will ſo purifie the Mold, and alſo Hay-Seeds being ſown, will ſpring up with the tender Graſs, which before the Moſs would never ſuffer to ſpring up: This truly managed, hath proved beyond what ſeveral have expected.

How to deſtroy Moles, being the quickeſt and beſt way at preſent diſcovered.

IN the firſt place you muſt have a Paddle, which muſt be put upon a Stick five or ſix foot long; I need not deſcribe which way to make a Paddle, for there be but few which do not know how to give directions to have them made according to their minds, for there be ſeveral faſhions, but they tend all to one thing, which is the diſcovery of the Moles haunts; Taking your Paddle, go out in a morning and walk round your Grounds, and ſee what Haunts be towards the Ditches and Banks, and when you have diſcovered the Trenches with your Paddle, tread them down, but not too hard; then look into the middle of your Grounds, and view if

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no Hills be new raiſed; which when you find, and the principal Trench leading to it; having digged with your Paddle the Earth into the Trench, tread it down with your foot indifferent hard, and ſo go over all your Ground after the ſame manner, looking very well the Ditches and Bank-ſides, for if it be a ſmall Ground, though he have many Hills in the middle, yet it is ten to one but he hath a main Trench leading to the Bank or Hedg: Having thus prepared your Grounds, get Weathy or any other Wood, as Alder, boared the bigneſs of a Mole, and the length of a Mole, (they are bought for eighteen-pence a dozen ready made); but being a pleaſure to make them in the Winter nights, I ſhall endeavour to give you the plaineſt directions I can; Having ſome Alder or Weathy about the bigneſs of the ſmall of ones Leg, ſaw them into pieces about five inches long, then bore them through with an Auger, one bigger than another, till you think he may be the bigneſs of a Mole, then ſaw him half through, leaving an inch and half at each end, ſo the piece that comes out will be two inches, you may cleave it off with a Chiſſel; with your Piercer bore a hole juſt in the middle and at each end. When your Traps are finiſhed, hang them up in the Chimney corner that ſo they may grow dry and tough; you muſt at each end at the inſide of the Trap, about half an inch from the end, make a round Ring about half a quarter of an inch deep, that the Hair may lie in the Hollow at each end, that ſo the Mole coming in may not ſlide or drive the Hair before him: Then go into ſome young Cops, and cut twenty or thirty Taper-Haſle or Dogwood-benders, ſuch as are uſed to be ſet in Springes for Woodcocks or Snipes, then

twiſt fifty or ſixty Horſe-hairs together, about half a yard long, then tie a ſtrong piece of Packthread to both the links of Hair, that ſo the Benders may ſtrike both at one time; in the Holes at each end of the Trap that was made with the Piercer, you muſt put in each link of Hair, and fit them to the Circle that was made hollow at each end, that ſo the Mole paſſing through the Hair may not put it out of order. When the Hair is exactly in, fill up the hollow Circle with a little Earth or Clay, that ſo the Mole may not draw the Hair out with his Claws as he paſſes by.

The Hole that is in the middle of the Trap, ſerves to keep the Benders ſtreight; you muſt put in one end of the Packthread that is faſtned to the Bender; you muſt leave an inch of Packthread to go through the Hole, and you muſt faſten it with a forked ſtick, about two inches long, the Fork an inch long, and the other ſtreight part an inch more; the Fork muſt ſtand within the ſide of the Trap, exactly perpendicular when it is ſet: It is the Nature of a Mole to turn any thing out of the way with his Noſe and Feet that lies in his Trench; ſo as ſoon as ever the Mole finds a ſtop, he works out the Stake with his Noſe and Feet; and before ever he is able to retreat backwards, the Benders ſtrike and very ſeldom fails to hang him by the Middle, and never by the Neck, (as ſome have written); You muſt be ſure to make the Trap faſt into the Ground, otherwiſe the Bender will be ſubject to put the Trap out; you may faſten it with Stones put at each ſide of the Trap, or ſmall Turfs, or forked Sticks; cover it very cloſe that no light may come to it to make the Mole fearful. After you have thus planted a dozen

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or more, according as your Grounds are infected, once a day you may look over them, and ſee what execution is done; they will ſtand four or five days without altering if the Benders be good. It happens now and then, through the rottenneſs of the Hair-grins, that a Mole when he hath been hanged, with much ſtrugling breaks the Hair-grin; and then he grows ſo cunning that he will hardly ever come through again, but continually heave up the Trap out of the Ground: I have ſeen ſet in a Garden three Traps, in his Trench, one within a yard of another, and he hath heaved them all out of the ground; Therefore I would adviſe you to have a Spike Trap or two, that ſo when a Mole hath been bauked with one of theſe Box Traps, the Spiked one will not fail to have him; theſe Spike Traps are ſo generally known and made, that there needs no deſcription: only by the way, have ſix Spikes to a Trap, and let them ſtand triangular at each end, and you will not fail of him; let your Spikes be round and not ſquare, and they will go into the Ground eaſier and quicker than your ſquare.

Another way of taking Moles in March *time.*

After you have taken a Doe-Mole, which you cannot fail once in two or three days, then get a good handſom earthen Pot about twenty inches deep, and having made a hole in the middle of a main Trench, plant the Pot that the top may be juſt even with the bottom of the Trench, then fill it half full of Mold, and put ſome great Worms in, then put in the Doe-Mole, (if you ſhould not put in Earth and Worms, the Mole would work her

her ſelf to death in twelve hours, as I have often tryed) but firſt rub her about the top of the Pot, and let her run of each ſide of the Trench, then force her into the Pot; thoſe that know the nature of your Buck-Moles, that at *March* they will run a quarter of a mile after a Doe, and you will find in a ſhort time, that not one Buck-Mole will be left in the Ground where the Pots are ſet; you muſt cover the Pot very cloſe that no light comes in, for if any light appears, it will ſo ſtartle the Mole that he will be very cautious to venture; the Doe-Mole will live all the month of *March* if you now and then beſtow a few Worms upon her; every time you give her Worms, you may ſearch the Pot to ſee what company ſhe hath got: This is an approved Receit.

An approved way to make any Tulip of what Colour you pleaſe, never before now Printed.

THere muſt be ſeveral things obſerved before you undertake this Work.

1. Conſider the Nature of your Tulips.
2. The time when they blow, ſome blow early, ſome late, to joyn them is to no purpoſe.
3. To have them exact of a bigneſs.
4. Not one forwarder than another.
5. It muſt be done at a warm time, or in a cloſe Room where little Air comes.
6. The Moon muſt be encreaſing.
7. With an exact hand.
8. With a great deal of Speed, otherwiſe your labour will be loſt.

But obſerving theſe Rules, and my further Directions,

ctions; you will not fail of your expectation; I assure you I have seen it experimented.

Now to perform this, you must have a very sharp thin Knife, and some Cruel, Yarn or Worsted, which must be to binde the Tulips when cut; then get some of your finest sort of Clay, and mix it well with Cow-Dung, let it be of an exact temper, neither too limber nor too thick. Now having all your things ready, being two of you together, match out certain Roots of Tulips which are of one Nature, their Leaves coming alike, and blow at the same time and season; and as near as you can guess, of one forwardness and one bigness. I shall only instance two sorts of Tulips, which are your Yellow Crown or Fools-Coat and White Crown, which are of one Nature, that is, the make of the Tulip is alike, and come always together. Having now chose out certain Roots of one bigness, length and forwardness of each sort, take your Knife and cut the Tulip as exactly as can be possible just in the midst of both your Roots, and slit the very Spindle of each; then immediately clap them up together, that is, one half of the Yellow Crown, and the other half of the White Crown; do not leave them open when you have slit them, but hold them together till you have all your things ready, for if the least Wind take them they will not joyn; then when all is ready, take you half the Yellow Crown, and give your Companion half the White Crown; then having regard to the Spindle, be sure to clap or joyn them exactly; then with your Cruel, or Yarn, or Worsted, tie the Root very firm together; then clay them up very well all over, and lay them by for a weak or ten days; then

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cut the Clay from the bottom and top, that ſo the Roots may ſhoot out, and the Spindle alſo, for the Roots and the Spindle will be very faint for the firſt year; as ſoon as you have cut the Clay from the top and bottom, ſet them into the Ground, and cover the Earth, ſo that the Froſt may not frieze the Earth about them; for if they be frozen all your labour is loſt, they ſeldom come up with more than one Leaf, for the firſt year, for very little more than the Spindle of your Root joyns together, without the Roots match very exactly; but we never regard only the Spindle joyning, which cauſes the alteration of the Flower; you will find the Roots not like other of ſets, for theſe will be long like a Date-ſtone; when you have taken them out of the Ground, put them into Sand, that ſo the Wind may not come at them to ſhrink them.

Concerning Fiſh and Fiſh-Ponds, how to improve them.

IN the firſt place you muſt conſider the ſcituation of your Pond, and what feed will ariſe by any Currant of Water to it; then whether it be a Breeder or not: Now if your Pond be a Breeder, then you muſt expect to have no large Carps, for the multitude of their young will over-ſtock the Pond, therefore a Store Pond is ever accounted better than a Breeder; but obſerving this Rule, you may make a Breeding Pond become a Store Pond, when you cannot make a Store Pond become a Breeding one, and you ſhall have a gallanter grown Fiſh out of your Breeding Pond, than out of your Store: When you ſue your Pond, conſider how many hundred

dred of Carps it will keep; then put in all Milters or all Spawners, ſo you will have in a ſhort time, large, well-grown fat Fiſh, far above your expectation; for putting all Milters, or all Spawners, there will be no encreaſe of Carps, but of other Fiſh they may abundantly multiply, which is a Fiſh called a Roach: Therefore I would adviſe all Gentlemen that have Breeding Ponds, to ſue them once in two or three years for fear of Roaches, though never any were put in, which may ſeem a Riddle, but I ſhall quickly unfold it; There be ſeveral Ponds which are haunted by your Wild-Ducks which uſually come at Nights to feed with the Tame ones that belong to the Ponds, now theſe Roches are brought by the Wild-Ducks, for the feeding amongſt your Weeds in Rivers, the Spawn of your Roaches will hang about their Feathers and Feet; and they uſing to come at night to the Ponds to feed, waſheth off the Spawn from their Feathers and Feet, that ſo in a few years (though you put not one Roch in) you may find multitudes of them, and lean ſtarved Carps; therefore if you have any ſuch ſuſpition that your Pond is infected, immediately cauſe it to be ſued, for the longer you tarry, the worſe your Carps will prove. I ſhall relate a very true thing that I was an eye witneſs of; A Gentleman not far from *London*, had a good handſom large Pond of about three or four Acres of Ground, which I was preſent at the ſuing, and I never ſaw better grown Fiſh every way than he had, being betwixt two and three hundred; I adviſed him to put in two or three hundred of ſtores of Carp about three or four years growth out of a Pond that was over-ſtocked, and to put ſixty of thoſe he had taken out, which ac-

accordingly I ſaw done, for I did fancy to have ſtately Carps the next ſuing. Now after four years was expired, I adviſed him to ſue his Pond to ſee what Monſters four years addition to their growth would produce, thoſe ſixty Carps were from Eye to Fork from fifteen inches to eighteen inches when he put them in; now having ſued his Pond, he found almoſt the whole number of his Carps, but they were in ſuch a lean condition that he did not know them, for they were Monſters in Nature, for their Heads were bigger than their whole Bodies, and I think almoſt as heavy; and all this came by his own folly, by putting in but twenty Roches; and when the Pond was ſued, there were buſhels of ſmall Roches, and theſe Roches eat up all the ſweet Feed from the Carps, for Roches are like Sheep to great Cattel, which eat up and devour all the ſweet Feed. The Gentleman was very much fruſtrated in his expectation, and the Fiſhmonger which came from *London* to buy a penny-worth; as ſoon as he perceived the Monſters, got up his Horſe as one frighted with a ſtrange Apparition, and never bid the Gentleman farewel. Now pray obſerve one thing by the way, That Ponds which will not breed one Carp, Roches in one year will multiply by thouſands; therefore there is a care to be taken every year to view your Pond, and obſerve if any ſmall Fry appears, leaſt when you come to ſue your Pond, you be deceived in your expectation.

How to make Carps grow to an extraordinary bigneſs and length.

WHen you find your Pond begin to grow low in Water, which is commonly about *April*, then take an Iron Rake and rake all the ſides of your Pond where the Water is fallen away; then ſow your Hay-Seeds and rake it well, and you ſhall find by the latter end of Summer there will be a very great growth of Graſs; which when Winter comes, and the Pond being raiſed by Rain to the top, will over-flow all that Graſs; and then the Carps having Water to carry themſelves to the feed, will fill themſelves, and in a ſhort time become as fat as Hogs that are put up a fatting; ſo ſerve it every Summer till you ſue your Pond, and you will find no River Carp to ſurpaſs them in fatneſs and ſweetneſs, and then I am confident you ſhall have no reaſon to complain of your charge and trouble; I will prove, that ordering your Ponds thus, that two years ſhall be as good as four. This is an approved way to make Carps thrive.

An approved way how to take Carps or Tench in a Muddy Pond.

I Do not write this enſuing Secret to teach Men how to Rob Gentlemens Ponds, but that Maſters of their own Ponds may be able upon caſes of neceſſity to ſupply themſelves with Fiſh, without being put to ſo much trouble and charge as to ſue their Ponds: In the firſt place you muſt provide your ſelf with a very large good Caſting-Net, well leaded,

leaded, let not the Meſhes from the Crown to a full yard and a half be too ſmall, for then if the Pond be any thing of a depth, the Fiſh will ſtrike away before the Net comes to ground; the whole Net ought to have a very large Meaſh, well Leaded, and deep Tucked.

The ſecond thing required, is to make the place clean from Stakes and Buſhes, and try with your Net before you intend for the Sport: If your Net hang, then all your labour is ſpent in vain; therefore clean it very well with a Rake before you caſt your Net, once or twice, that there may be no obſtruction: Then proceed as to the baiting of them, for you muſt not imagine that Carps or Tench will come to that place more than another, except you do uſe to feed them; which order thus: Take a quarter of a peck of Wheat, baking it well in an Oven, putting in two quarts of Water at leaſt; when it is well baked, take two or three quarts of Blood, and mix this Wheat and Blood together, then put in as much Bran as will make it into a Paiſt; then to make it hold together, put ſome Clay to it, and ſo mold it well together with a quart of your Lob-Worms chopped in pieces and worked into the Paſt; then roll it in pretty handſom Balls, and throw it into the Pond within the compaſs of your Caſting-Net; but between whiles throw in ſome Grains; and when you think the Fiſh hath found out the baiting-place, when you intend to fiſh, bait it with theſe Ingredients made up into a Paſt that I have directed; bait them in the morning betimes, then come in the dusk of the evening, and caſt your Net over the place where you baited; then take a long Pole with a large Fork made for the purpoſe,

poſe, and the Net ſtill lying, ſtir all about the Net, for the Carps and Tench are ſtruck up to the Ears in Mud, and ſtand exactly upon their Heads; let the Net lie a quarter of an hour at leaſt, ſtill ſtirring with your Pole, if the place be not too deep; when you have covered the Fiſh, you may go into the Pond and take them all out with your hands, which I have ſeveral times ſeen done; but if it be, when you find the Carps begin to ſtir, (for they cannot lie long in the Mud) then lift up the Crown of your Net bolt up-right with a long Staff, that ſo the Fiſh may play into the tuck of the Net. If you ſhould draw up your Net preſently after you had caſt it in, it were a hundred to one if you had a Carp; but letting the Net lie, the Mud will choak them in half an hours time; and likewiſe you muſt keep ſtirring them up with your long Staff, till you find them ſtruck into your Tuck, which you muſt keep lifted up after your ſtirring them. I ſhall relate a ſhort Story of what I ſee done; A Gentleman had ſpecial Carps in his Pond, but knew not which way to take one, but by chance with Hook and Line; I did deſire him we might eat two or three of his Carps; he anſwered, with all his heart if I could tell how to take them; I prepared ſome Ingredients, and having baited a place convenient in the morning very betimes, and in the dusk of the evening we came with our Caſting-Net, and at the throw covered a very great parcel of Fiſh, as by the ſequel of the Story will appear, but not one ſeemed to ſtir or wag under the Net, being all ſtruck into the Mud; The Gentleman laughed, and ſaid he was like to have but a ſlender Supper of Fiſh, and that he was afraid he ſhould have been forced to

ſend out for Butter to make Sauce; I deſired him he would have patience, for the Fiſh were a-ſleep, but I did not queſtion but to awake them half an hour hence: ſo the Gentleman having ſmoaked a Pipe of Tobacco, a Carp began to play in the Net; I think, ſays he, they have been a-ſleep indeed, that could not underſtand there was a Net over them all this while; then I began to ſtir with my long Pole to awaken them, and before you could tell an hundred they began to dance in the Net; then I lifted up the Crown for them to play into the Tuck; and when I thought they were all out of the Mud I began to draw, and at one draught drew up in the Net ſeventy odd Carps great and ſmall, to the admiration and great ſatisfaction of the owner and the reſt of the company, having in all their life-time not ſeen the like before. *Probatum eſt.*

An approved way to take a Hern.

A Hern being as great a devourer of Fiſh as any is, I will affirm ten times as much as the Otter, and ſhall deſtroy a Pond more in one week, than an Otter ſhall do in three months, for I have ſeen a Hern that hath been ſhot at a Pond to have ſeventeen Carps at once in his Belly, which he will digeſt in ſix or ſeven hours, and to fiſhing again: (I ſee a Carp taken out of a Herns Belly nine inches and a half long); for ſeveral Gentlemen that have kept them tame, have put Fiſh in a Tub, and tryed the Hern how many ſmall Roches and Dace he would eat in a day, and they have found him to eat above 50 a day one day with another. One Hern that haunts a Pond, in a year ſhall deſtroy a thouſand

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more-Carps, and when Gentlemen sue their Ponds; think their Neighbours have robbed them, not in the least considering a Hern is able to devour them in half a years time, if he put in 1500 Stores. Now the best way to take this grand Enemy to Fish, is thus; Having found out his haunt, get three or four small Roches or Dace, and have a strong Hook with a Wire to it; draw the Wire just within-side the Skin of the Fish, beginning without-side of the Guills running of it to the Tail, and then the Fish will lie five or six days alive, for if the Fish be dead, the Hern will not touch him; let not your Hook be too rank; then having a strong Line with Silk and Wire, about two yards and a half long, (if you twist not Wire with your Silk, his sharp Bill will bite it in two immediately) and tie a round Stone about a pound weight to the Line, and lay three or four Hooks, and in two or three nights you shall not fail to have him if he comes to your Pond; lay not your Hooks in the deep Water where the Hern cannot wade to them, for if you do, they may lie long enough before you see the effect of your pains: colour your Line of a dark green, for a Hern is a very subtle Bird. There are several other Devourers, as your Otter, Water-Rat, Kings-fisher, More-Hens, Balcoots, and your Cormorant; but none like the Hern for your Ponds and small Rivers.

An excellent way to take all manner of small Bird with Bird-Lime.

IN Winter, and especially in a Snow, all sorts of small Birds will begin to flock together, as Larks, Chafinches, Lennets, and Yellow-hammers, which

when you see about the House or Field adjacent, having your Bird-lime provided of the best sort, and not too old; order it thus, Take an Earthen Dish and put your Bird-lime with some Capon's-grease or fresh Lard; put to a quarter of a pound of Bird-lime, half an ounce of Capon's-grease or Lard; then set it over the fire, and let it melt gently together; for if it boil you take away the strength of the Bird-lime. Having thus ordered it, and made it fit for use, Then go into the Barn, and chuse out an hundred of large Wheat-ears, and cut the Straw about a foot long besides the Ears; then from the bottom of the Ears to the middle of the Straw, lime it about six or seven inches; let your Lime be warm when you lime the Straw, that so it may run thin upon the Straw, and less discernable to the Birds: When you have so done, go into your Field hard by your House, and carry a little Bag of Chaff and threshed Ears, and scatter them fourteen or fifteen yards wide, (it is best in a Snow); Then take Ears that are limed, and stick them up and down in the Snow, with the Ears leaning, or at the end touching the ground; then retire from the place, and drive them from any other haunt, and you will presently see great flocks of Birds come to the place, and begin to peck the Ears of Corn, and fly away with them; which as soon as he mounts, the Straw that is Bird-limb'd laps under his Wing, and down he falls, not perceiving himself to be hanged; for I have seen many eat their Ears when they have been fast limed under the Wing; therefore you must not go when three or four or more are taken, but let them alone till a dozen or two are hampered; here in the Field you

take most upon Larks; I have taken six dozen in a morning. You may lay some near home to take all manner of Finches, and especially Sparrows (which is the Farmers Enemy of all small Birds) for they will not come into the Field so far from the House; let me tell you, Every dozen of Sparrows you take in Winter, shall save you a quarter of Wheat before Harvest: therefore stick your Ears about the House-tops, and though you never have the Birds, yet the destruction of them will be a great advantage. Having had this morning-Recreation, go and bait the place with a Bag or two of more Ears and Chaff, and let them rest till next morning; then take some fresh Wheat-Ears again, and stick them as you did before. When you bait in the afternoon, take away all your limed Ears, that so the Birds may feed boldly and not be frighted against next morning.

A true and exact way to make your best Water Bird-lime to take Snipes, or any other that delighteth in the Water.

BUY a pound of the strongest Bird-lime you can get, and being washed nine times in clear spring Water till you find it very pliable, and the hardness quite extinguished, then beat out the Water extraordinary well till you cannot perceive a drop to appear; then cause it to be well dryed; having so done, put it into an earthen Pot, and add thereto as much of the best Capon-Grease without Salt as will make it run; then add two spoonfuls of strong Vinegar, and a Spoonful of the best Sallet-Oil, and a small quantity of Venice Turpentine, and boil them all gently together upon a soft fire, stirring it continually; then take it from

the fire and let it cool; and when at any time you have occaſion to uſe it, warm it, and then anoint your Twigs, or Straws, or any other ſmall things, and no Water will take away the ſtrength: This ſort of Bird-lime is the beſt, and eſpecially for Snipes and Felfares.

How to take Snipes and Felfares with this Water Bird-lime.

With this Bird-lime ſo ordered, take two or three hundred of Birch-twigs, and lime forty or fifty of them together very well; then finding out the haunt of the Snipes, which you ſhall perceive by their Dung; and in very hard Weather, where the Water lies open, they will lie very thick; then obſerving the place where they moſt feed, ſet two or three hundred of your Twigs at a yard diſtance; let them ſtand ſloping, ſome one way, and ſome another; then retire two or three hundred paces from the place, and you ſhall find there ſhall not one Snipe in ten miſs your Twigs, by reaſon they ſpread their Wings and fetch a round cloſe to the ground before they light: when you ſee any taken, ſtir not at firſt, for he will feed with the Twigs under his Wings; and as others come over the place, he will be a cauſe to intice them. But when you ſee the Coaſt clear, and but few that be not taken, go and take up your Birds, and faſten one or two, that the other flying over may come to the ſame place; if there be any other open place there by, put them off from thoſe Haunts; they will lie where it is open and a Spring very much, for they can feed in no hard place by reaſon of their Bills; in a

Snow

Snow you ſhall have them extraordinary thick in ſuch a place.

How to take Felfares.

WHen time is, which is about *Michaelmas*, take your Gun and kill a Felfare or two, and then lay them or ſet them in ſuch order that they may ſeem to ſit alive upon a Tree; then having prepared your Twigs, about two or three hundred or more, take a great Burchen Bough, and cut off all the ſmall Twigs; make little Holes and Clefts in all places about the Bough, and there place in your Twigs; then ſet the Felfare upon the top of the Bough making of him faſt, that he may ſeem to be alive, (let this Bough of Bird-lime Twigs be ſet near where they come in a morning to feed, for they keep a conſtant place till their Food is gone) that ſo others flying but near, will quickly eſpie the top-Bird, and fall in whole flocks to him; I have ſeen at one fall almoſt two dozen taken.

How to take Pidgeons with Lime-twigs.

WHen you find any Ground much uſed with Pigeons, which is a very great devourer of Corn; get a couple of Pigeons dead or alive, if they be dead, order them to ſtand ſtiff as if they were living and a-feeding; then at Sun-riſe take your twigs, what quantity you pleaſe, let them be very ſmall, (Wheaten Straws are as good or better) and place them up and down where your two Pigeons are ſet, and you ſhall find that ſport at every fall that is made, that you may quickly be rid of them without offen-

ding the Statute; two or three dozen is nothing to take in a morning, if there comes good flights.

How to take Crows, Pyes and Gleads with Lime-twigs.

WHen you have a Horſe or any other Carrion that is dead and ſtripped, and when you have found that Crows, Pyes, and Kites have found out their Prey, over-night ſet your Lime-twigs up and down the Carrion, let them be very ſmall and not ſet too thick, for they are very ſubtle Birds; when you perceive one to be faſt, ſtir not, for many times they have been caught, and have not been ſenſible of it: Likewiſe you may join to a Packthread ſeveral Nooſes of Hair up and down the Packthread, and peg it down about a yard from the Carrion, for many times when they have gotten a piece, they will be apt to run away to feed by themſelves; and if your Nooſes be thick, it is two to one but ſome of the Nooſes catch him by the Legs.

How to take Crows and Rooks when they pull up the Corn by the Roots.

TAke ſome thick brown Paper, and divide a ſheet into eight parts, and make them up like Sugar-Loaves; then lime the inſide of the Paper a very little, (let them be limed three or four days before you ſet them) then put ſome Corn in them, and lay fifty or ſixty of them up and down the Ground, lay them as much as you can under ſome clod of Earth, and early in the morning before they come to feed; and then ſtand at a diſtance and you will ſee excellent

excellent ſport, for as ſoon as Rook, Crow, or Pigeon comes to peck out any of the Corn, it will hang upon his Head, and he will immediately fly bolt up-right ſo high, that he ſhall ſeem like a ſmall Bird, and when he is ſpent, come tumbling as if he was ſhot in the Air: You may take them at plowing-time when the Rooks and Crows follow the Plow, but then you muſt put in Worms and great Maggots.

How to make Hogs Thrive.

IT is always obſerved among Country-Men, that a Hog never thrives when his Hair ſtares and looks rugged like a Bear, therefore obſerve this Rule once a month, and you ſhall have the beſt Hogs in the Country. Take half a peck of Aſhes or a Peck, and boil them into a Lie; then having an old Curry-Comb ready, lay the Hog upon a fourm, then wet him well with the Lye, then Curry him with your Comb till you find all his Scurff waſted from his Skin, then with Water waſh him as clean as a Porket, and ſtrew him full of dry Aſhes, and this will kill all the Lice, and make them thrive extraordinary. If you do not believe what I write, try one or two and you ſhall eaſily perceive a very great difference in a months time; the greateſt thing that I know which hinders the thriving of Hogs, is to let them lie too long in Straw, for if they have but a dry houſe, and a dry place to lie upon; never trouble your ſelf for Straw, for it makes them Louſie and full of a dry Scurf which hinders their growth.

How

How to make Cabbage-Plants grow great Cabbages in very Barren Ground.

THere be ſeveral poor People in this Kingdom which are ready to be ſtarved, which live near Heaths, (were it not for the convenience of Firing, which they have at a cheap rate) by reaſon the ground is ſo barren, that they know not which way to make any thing grow or thrive; for having planted the beſt ſort of your Cabbage-Plants, they turn all into pittiful Coleworts, and ſo reap little benefit or none at all, though they lay a load of Dung upon every Pole, the Ground is ſo dryed and ſo barren. Now I ſhall direct you how with half a load of Dung allowed to every Pole, to have as large and big Cabbages, as if you laid ſix load upon a Pole; Having got two or three hundred of good ſhort-knotted, and well-ſtocked Plants, for otherwiſe they will turn to Coleworts in the beſt of Grounds; then conſider how many Plants a Pole of Ground will take up to ſet them at a convenient diſtance; then ſet them out, and dig as many holes about half a yard wide as you intend to ſet Plants; then fill up the Holes with Dung, and put ſome Earth into every Hole, and mix it well together with the Dung, let three quarters of it be Dung, then plant the Cabbage in the midſt of the Hole, (let there be half a foot of Dung and Mold below the Root of the Plant) and then water it very well three or four times in a week, if need require, that ſo the Plant may take good root; upon any dry time, you muſt give him water, that ſo the Cabbage may not be at a ſtand; and when you ſee him begin to turn in his Leaves, for leafing, heave

up

up the Earth to the Cabbage; ſet them not too thick, that ſo they may have room to ſpread; thirty in a Pole will be ſufficient, for the richeſt Ground, if the ſtand too cloſe, produce little thing elſe but Coleworts: In ſetting of theſe thirty Plants half a load of good Dung will do it to every Pole; ſo every year the Ground will be inriched with little or no charge conſidering the Crop it will bear; I have my ſelf, Dung being ſcarce, (as always it is in barren places) with two load planted four Pole of ground, which was very barren, being upon a gravelly Heath, and ſeveral of my Neighbours coming by in the interim, laughed to ſee me plant Cabbage-Plants in ſo barren gravelly Soil; for they not ſeeing the Dung put into the Holes, never imagined that I had ſet my Cabbage-plants in almoſt all Dung and fine Mold; but when they came towards Winter to ſee the fruits of my Labour, they ſtood like Men amazed, and would not believe their own eyes, but thought the Plants enchanted, (there was eighty odd leafed Cabbages, and very many weighed above 20 pound a Cabbage); which to ſatisfie their curioſity, and being willing to further them what I could, I pulled up one and ſhewed them exactly which way it was performed; and ſince hundreds have learnt it, to their great improvement of their little ground.

Many of your poor People by all theſe Heathſides keep a Cow, which makes them two or three load of Dung in a year; which being laid upon five or ſix Pole of Ground, and ſpread abroad, and ſpiked in, only refreſhes the Ground and that is all, for the barren Ground being only ſprinkled, eats out the heart of the Dung and produceth no crop;

but

but this way in time will make the Ground good with no charge, considering the profits as you will find by experience to arise.

To make Garden-Beans grow in a Barren-Soyl.

TAke your largest sort of Garden-Beans, and lay them twelve hours in the strongest Brine: Then having digged your Ground very well where your Cabbages grew last year, observe the Rows where the Cabbages stood; then hew a Trench through these rows pretty deep, but not wide, and cast in four or five shovels full of good Dung, and mix the Earth and Dung together; then lay your Beans a foot apart, and cover them over not too deep in the Ground, for I have seen by experience one sort of Bean in the same Ground, and being set deep, hath not thrived half so well as those that have been shallower, for I am of opinion that they spend much of their strength before they get out of the Ground, except the Ground be extraordinary good and deep; for you must take notice that a Bean hath a downright Root, and if it be set deep, and the Ground poor that it roots into, how can you expect any thing of a crop again? You that live in barren Soils, observe this way of planting your Beans, and with little charge you shall find an extraordinary crop crown your Labours beyond what you can imagine or think; and in time your Ground will become good, and you will be never sensible of the charge thereof: If it should happen to be a dry time, keep them watred three or four times a week, and you shall at last find the benefit of a little trouble.

An

An approved way to destroy all manner of Field-Mice.

I Know not a greater Enemy than your Field-Mice to your Garden Beans and Peaſe, as many poor People and others have found by experience; having found their Beans and Peaſe, dug them up when they have been an inch above-ground. Now to deſtroy theſe Vermine, get an earthen Pot about two foot deep, and at the bottom put Wheat-Ears and Hemp-ſeeds, with a few Peaſe, and have a Board that may play into the Pot, being baited at one end with Oatmeal and Lard, that ſo thoſe that will not venture in, may be deceived by the Board; lay ſome Peaſe-haume over this Pot, ſet it upon ſticks that ſo it may lie hollow, that the Mice may not be afraid to play about it: This is one way of deſtroying them, but none of the beſt, for they lie ſcattered up and down the Fields, and never venture far from the Hedge-ſide.

Another approved way which is the beſt I ever ſaw to deſtroy Field-Mice.

Field-Mice is one of the greateſt Enemies the poor Gardiner hath, for he is worſe than a Mole, for he will ſcratch up Beans and Peaſe when they are an inch or more above the Ground, which hath proved a very great loſs to him, being diſappointed in his early Crop: I have ſeen in one night whole rows of Beans and Peaſe ſo deſtroyed with theſe Field-Mice, as if a Hog had been amongſt them; and the Gardiner making a lamentable complaint to

me,

me, told me how he was deceived in his Crop, I am forced to plant them near the Hedg for warmth, and these Mice if they find them not at first, yet they never fail them when they appear above-ground: I told him for his first half bushel of Peas, I would direct him such a way, that in five or six nights time should destroy all his Enemies: He being content thus, I instructed him, I bid him get a piece of Deal-board and cut it into thin slices, and make them pretty smooth, and cut twenty pieces of six inches long, twenty pieces of two inches, and twenty of three inches long; then cut a notch in the side of that piece which is six inches, about two inches from the end, and a cross notch upon the flat side within half an inch of the end; then the other of two inches to cut it taper at one end, and a cross notch on the flat side made within half an inch of the end; then the Stick that is two inches and a half must be taper at one end, that so the cross notch may in the stick of two inches, rest upon the top of the two inches and a half; and then the two inches must at the taper end go into the Stick that is six inches, and the notch of the side will be a stay to hold up the Tiles; then take forty Tiles and they will serve for twenty Traps, and fit them as near as you can to fall close together: Then take your three Sticks, your six inches, three and two inch sticks, and place your three inch stick to the edge of your undermost bottom Tile; then take your two inch stick, and place the notch of it upon the taper end of your three notcht stick; then take your six inches stick, and set the taper end of the two inch stick, in the notch that is at the end of the six inch stick; then the notch of the side

of

of the six inches, must hook into the side of the three inch stick, otherwise the weight of the Tile will make the sticks fly all apart; if it stand when it is set exactly like a figure of four, you shall see every part exactly in the Frontice-piece; you must bait the end of your six inch stick with Lard, and dip it into Oatmeal, bait but your uppermost side; then having set them all along the Hedg-sides, you will find such a destruction, according to the number you set, that is not imaginable, for the Trap very seldom misses: And when you go in the morning to see your Traps, take a little Lard and Oatmeal to refresh them where the Mice are caught: the Traps will stand a month without baiting or new setting, except some body throw it down, or many times the Wind, if it be very high, may be the occasion of its fall: I have taken abundance of little Birds called your Titmice, which is a very mischievous Bird to Buds of Trees. The Gardiner with fifty Traps destroyed, in four nights, about one hundred and twenty Mice, and continued less for eight days together; he had not a Bean nor a Pea tucked after he set these Traps. I will undertake to destroy five hundred Field-Mice in less than a fortnights time, with a hundred of these Traps: You will find this Trap the greatest destroyer of these Mice that ever was made; you may make twenty of them in an hour, and set them in an hour more; do but experience what I have writ, if you be troubled with them, and you shall find every tittle thereof true; your six inch stick must be very thin, otherwise it will cause the Tiles to lie hollow and then the Mouse will make his escape; but if thin, and the Tiles fall close, you shall find him as flat as a Flounder.

A new way to make Arbours to become Green and Shady in one Year.

FIrſt, Set out the proportion of your Arbour for Length, or Breadth, and Height; then imploy ſome of your Servants or Country-men to gather the ſtreighteſt and ſmootheſt white-Weathy Rods, without knots, three or four inches about; then make holes with a Crow of Iron, and place your Rods about a foot and a half diſtance, more or leſs, according to the fancy that beſt pleaſes the Planter, and at leaſt two foot into the Ground: when you have ſo done, let your croſs Rods which makes the ſquare be of the durableſt Wood you can get; and at every croſs Joint bind them faſt with your weathy Bark and not with Wire, becauſe thoſe that ſtand in the Ground ſhould grow and not be cut into with the Wire: let your Rods which ſtand in the Ground be taper at one end, and then your Arbour will come over with an Arch at the top; I would adviſe you to let your Rods which ſtand in the Ground be of your white ſort of Weathy, and then they will not decay in a ſhort time, for they will grow, and be ſome addition of ſhade; but for your croſs Rods, the durableſt wood is the beſt: If your Arbour ſhould be made of Rods, which will not grow in three years time or leſs, all your Labour is loſt, which hath been too much the indiſcretion of Gardiners for many years; if the croſs Rods fail in two or three years, you may quickly ſupply them without any prejudice to the Arbour. After your Arbour is thus made, then imploy ſome of your Servants or Labouring-Men to go into the Fields, and

and take up ten or twelve of your wild Vines or Brionies, every Country-man almost knows them, they usually grow by Hedg-sides or in Ditches; they bear a Leaf like a Vine, and the Roots are commonly as big as a Man's Thigh; they that take them up must do it with a deal of care, for the Roots are very brickly, and will break off if they be not careful: Now having gotten ten or twelve Roots, cut them smooth at all the little ends, and set them about two foot distance or less, according as you will have the Arbour shadowed; and if it be a very dry time, water them three or four times the first year, but very well when you set them, and in three months time you will have an Arbour so thick and so pleasant, for the shadow and sweetness of the Flowers it bears, that People will hardly believe their own eyes, but think it an Apparition; which the other sort of Arbours made all of dead Rods, in two or three years will decay and all come to nothing; but this way will continue many years, being every way beneficial.

How to Water an Orchard after a new fashion.

HEre I shall shew you how to water several Orchards for very little cost; but no Body is so ignorant to imagine that every one can be so, except they lie convenient; If your Orchard lies upon the side of a Hill near any High-way, and the High-way lie somewhat higher than the Orchard; then provide against any good shower of Rain, (which in *April* we commonly have enough) make one great Trench through the Hedg, and from that Trench make several small ones which may lead to every

Tree, to conduct the Water from one Tree to another throughout the Orchard, one ſuch watering ſhall enliven your Trees more than ten ſhowers of Rain. When you go to turn the Water into the Orchard, you muſt make a Dam croſs the High-way, otherwiſe your Trees may be parched for want of Water: If your Orchard lies drooping upon the ſide of a Hill, and the next adjoining Ground higher, though no High-way lie near it, yet taking your opportunity, may do thus; View round your Orchard, and conſider which end lies moſt convenient to carry your Water throughout your whole Orchard, for you muſt begin with the higheſt part firſt; when you have thus taken the level of your Orchard, ſee where the greateſt Current of Water may fall, and from that place begin your main Trench, and let it go through your Orchard; and from this large Drain cauſe another leſs to water the firſt row of Trees, and ſo to the ſecond; if you find your Water prove ſcanty, and you cannot water all your Orchard at once, order it for twice, thus; Make a ſide Trench that may carry the Water to the third or fourth row, and never ſpend any upon the firſt row at all; Now if you have no High-way, nor convenient Lane nor Ditch that carries any courſe of Water, that may prove any way beneficial to the watering of your Orchard; yet if your Orchard lean any way, with Trenches made to the Trees upon any ſudden ſhower, a great deal of Water may be conveyed to them, that falls in the Ground where they ſtand; ſo let any Orchard ſtand almoſt how it will, with skill, care, and diligence, and ſmall charge, you will be able to cauſe your Orchard to return treble profit for the firſt

years

years expence: But ſuppoſe your Orchard lies upon an exact Flat, yet if the Country-Man beſtowed a ſmall Tub of Water to every Tree, (eſpecially if old and big Trees) he would find the profit of it at the years end; for you muſt obſerve, when any Trees grows and ſpreads, it keeps the Rain from the Roots.

I ſhall now faithfully relate what was the event of this kind of watering. There was a Farmer that took a ſmall Farm in *Oxfordſhire*, about twenty pound a year, not far from *Reading*, he took a Leaſe of five years, and lived two years in it, and received no benefit worth mentioning of his Orchard; I riding that way, with a Friend which was his acquaintance, he called in to ſee the Farmer; and having a little refreſhed our ſelves, we walked out to ſee his Ground, which was very poor; and at laſt going into his Orchard, the poor Farmer fetched a great ſigh: O, ſays he, would all theſe Trees were chopped up by the Roots, for this Orchard is ſpecial good Ground, but I have no benefit of it; for if I ſow it, the ſhade of the Trees and Birds devour all my Corn, and I have not had twenty Buſhels of Apples this two years off from it, and I took it for the benefit of the Orchard, which was between three and four Acres of Ground: Country-Man (ſays I) you know not what Riches you have near you, for I will direct you a way to make this Orchard pay all your Rent, give me but a Hogſhead of Sider; But (ſays he) my Orchard muſt firſt find Apples: I perſwaded him to take a Leaſe of one and 10 years, for I told him he had the beſt penny-worth in *Oxford-ſhire*; but his anſwer was, I wiſh I was well rid of this: Well, if it be ſo, obſerve my

Directions, and you need not fear but your Orchard will pay your Rent; ſo having viewed his Orchard round, within a little ſpace diſtant from his Orchard went the High-way; I told him the convenience of this High-way would pay his Rent; How can that be when I ſell neither Beer nor Ale? I deſired him immediately to get me two or three Labourers and I would direct them; I brought the Water from the High-way, by making of a Dam through the middle of the ſmall Ground into the Orchard; then from that Trench I cauſed them to cut out ſeveral other Trenches, leading to every row of Trees, and made them dig a yard round every Tree that the Water may have time to ſoak into the Ground, having good compaſs round the Tree: Notwithſtanding all this, he had not ſo much Faith to take a new Leaſe, but firſt deſired to ſee the event of this new Invention: This was about the middle of *February*; I directed him alſo to ſmoother his Orchard with Muck and Fern, (which way to order is treated of in another place) and continue it ſo long as the Wind ſhould hold any way Eaſterly or Northerly. At the latter end of *September*, Buſineſs calling me that way, I called upon the Farmer to know how his Orchard thriv'd; with a merry countenance he replyed, I have Apples enough to pay my Rent, and punctually performed his promiſe with an over-plus; I adviſed him now to take a new Leaſe, which then was too late, for his Landlord had been there and ſeen the Improvement, and would not let him a new Leaſe under 30 *l. per Annum*; for he was of an opinion, this way would not fail in cauſing the Orchard to bear; the Leaſe being expired, the Landlord keeps

the

the Orchard, and lets the Ground for 15 *l. per Annum.* The Orchard is duly worth to him twenty pound a year more; that year when the improvement was made he had about sixty quarters of Apples; he fatted his Hogs with the worst, and sold the best at a good rate; All his charges amounted but to 18 *s.* and 9 *d.*

How to order old decayed Trees, to make them bear as well as ever.

ABout the end of *October*, or beginning of *November*, or later, until the rising of the Sap, cut such superfluous Branches as seem too thick in the middle of the Tree, or those which through extraordinary high Winds have been bruised or broken; then having a scraping-Knife, scrape off the Moss that grows about the principal Limbs of the Tree, which with a Knife made convenient for the purpose, a Man will cleanse forty or fifty in a days time; for this Moss is full as bad for the Apple-Trees as Ivy is for the Oak; this being performed, dig the Earth a yard round every Tree, and a spit deep, which let lie open all the Winter till the middle of *March*; then give your Orchard a good watering, and if you cannot conveniently, then get a small Cart with a Barrel, and bestow a Barrel of Water to a Tree and fill it up with Dung, and lay the Mold upon the Dung; then about the latter end of *May* give each Tree a Barrel full of Water, and you shall find the Trees shall flourish and shoot out Scenes to admiration, and shall bear again as well as if it was in its prime; some may say, The Remedy is worse than the Disease, thinking it too

great a charge: To which I Anſwer, I will hire a Man by the great, ſhall at any time undertake the performance of all that belongs to dreſſing and ordering of them for fourpence a Tree; and I queſtion not but every Tree will afford ten times as much advantage in the firſt years bearing.

How to order an Orchard that it ſhall never miſs Bearing.

I Have ſeen ſeveral Orchards that have been blown as white as a ſheet, but when the Bloſſoms have been gone, there hath been no appearance of Fruit; therefore follow theſe Directions, and your Trees ſhall not fail to be extraordinary well hung, for I can aſſure you of my own knowledg, and ſeveral others Experience, that when moſt Orchards have miſcarried, their Trees could not ſtand under their burden: When you perceive there is an Eaſterly or North-eaſterly red Wind, which was ever accounted a bliting Wind, if you live near any Heathy Ground, then in Summer dry three or four hundred of Turfs; but if you are not near any Heathy Ground, then take three or four good arms full of muckle Straw, Hay, or Fern, not too wet, nor too dry, and obſerving which ſide of the Orchard the Wind blows on; then laying a good arm-full of Muckle in three or four places, according to the bigneſs of your Orchard, get ſome dry Sticks, and having kindled them, put an arm-full of Muckle upon the Fire, and it will ſmoak and ſmoother, and the Wind will drive the Smoak through the whole Orchard; continue it till the Wind turn out of the Eaſterly quarter, and it will preſerve the

Trees

Trees and Fruit from Blites, and all manner of Flies and Caterpillars, which those sorts of bliting Winds usually bring; when you find the Wind changed to West, North-West, South, or South-West, you may forbear making any smoother, for those Winds never hurt; observing this, you shall find that not once in ten times you shall ever miscarry; but on the contrary, have your Trees so furnished with Fruits, in the worst of years, according to your hearts desire. After the same manner you may preserve your Wall-Fruit from Frosts.

A true way to make Watrish Fruit become firm, sound, and sweet.

WHen you find that your Apples are watrish, puffie, or hollow, and will not keep, which if the Ground lie low or near a River, all sorts of Apples will be subject to, and then they eat very unpleasant and will not keep, though it appear a fair handsom beautiful fruit to the eye: Now to cause your Fruit to eat firm and pleasant, observe these directions; About the latter end of *October*, or beginning of *November*, dig round every Tree, about a yard and a half from the Body, and a full Spit deep or more; then fill up the place with the best Chalk, and let it lie open all Winter, that the Frost may chasten it, that so it may incorporate with the Earth, and about the end of *March* throw the Earth upon the Chalk, and water the Orchard if you can, and you will find in one year so great a change, and extraordinary benefit accrue to the Fruit of your Orchard, that you shall hardly believe your own taste, and the Apples will be whol-

ſomer, pleaſanter, and keep ſeveral months longer than uſually they were accuſtomed to do: if you will not ſerve all your Orchard, experiment three or four Trees, and you ſhall quickly find the difference of the Fruit.

The true way of Planting and Ordering of Melons, Cucumbers, Pompions, and Colliflowers.

I Shall begin with the Melon; Firſt, I ſhall tell you the reaſon why we make Hot Beds; and that is this, To get them forward againſt Summer comes, that ſo the Fruit may have time to ripen: In *Spain* and *France* they never make a Hot Bed, by reaſon their Summer is long and hot; Melons that grow in thoſe Countries far ſurpaſs ours in Taſte and Colour. Now your Cucumbers ripen far ſooner, and Pompions in half the time, though they be an extraordinary large ſort of Fruit; for they are commonly ſet in *May*, and ripe in *Auguſt*: Now for your Melon and Cucumber, you muſt begin to make your Hot Bed in the middle of *February*, or latter end, (which I ever found ſoon enough); having provided your ſelf of a warm place, being fenced about with a cloſe Pale, Wall, or Hedg, about ſix or ſeven foot high, and being at ſuch a diſtance from the Bed that the Sun may ſhine over any time in the day, and eſpecially in the morning; Now the incloſed being finiſhed, you muſt bring ſix or ſeven load of Horſe-dung, ſix or ſeven days old; and thus you muſt raiſe your Bed, and ſet up Stakes the length and breadth of your Bed; then take your Dung and ſhake it, that it may not lie harder in one place than another; ſix or ſeven Load will

will make a Bed 7 or 8 foot long, 3 foot high, and 3 foot over; tread it not extraordinary hard, let it as near as you can be all over of an equal hardneſs, for elſe one Seed will be up before another; having raiſed your Bed to the higheſt, get a load of pure Horſe-Dung, without Straw, and lay it at the top, and wet the Horſe-Dung, and beat it very ſmooth with your Spade; then ſift ſome pure Mold, being laſt years Dung rotted; for if it have any Earth in it, the Melons will not thrive kindly, but moſt part will be ſubject to pine away; therefore get the richeſt Mold you can have, ſifted on, about four inches or five thick; your Melons and Cucumber-ſeed being ſteeped in Milk twenty four hours, put them in at two or three inches diſtance with your finger, and about an inch and a half deep; then having ſome Melon-Glaſſes ready, cover them, to draw up the heat to the top of the Herbs; Glaſſes are the beſt of things to bring up early Melons, for they keep out Wind and Weather, and let in the Sun to comfort them. But as ſome have directed to place Forks, and lay Sticks upon the Forks, then cover them with Straw, it avails little; for a good ſhower of Rain, or a ſmall Froſt, puts an end to your trouble: your Mat-covering is far better, and cover the Mat over with Straw; no early Melons are to be brought up without Glaſſes; thoſe that cannot go to the charge of all Glaſs, make them thus, Make three parts of them Wood, and one part Glaſs, and let the glaſſy-ſide always ſtand to the Sun; when you open them, when you perceive them to peep above-ground, cover them again about a quarter of an inch with warm Mold from the bottom of the Bed; and when they are ſhot above-

above-ground, cover up the Stakes close to the Leaves, and when the Sun appears, give them some about ten of the Clock till eleven, and cover your Glass over with some Straw that the Sun prove not too hot; open that again about two till four; observe still as the Plants rise, to raise up the Earth to the Leaves; When you find the Bed begin to decay, immediately remove your Plants into another Bed, otherwise your labour and former pains will be lost, for you shall find the Roots in a short time to perish and decay for want of heat; which when they come into a fresh Bed, they will mount away and grow more in one day than in six before in the other Bed: If you find the Bed to grow dry, steep some Water in Sheeps-Dung, and having made it Blood-warm, water them once in twelve hours or more, according as you shall find occasion: Now having taken out all your best Plants, and planted them about four inches distance in your new Bed, then stir all your Mold of your old Bed, and if it be too dry wet it, and then rake the Earth very even, and sow your Colli-flower Seeds in rows, not too thick; if you should sow them with the Melons and Cucumbers, they would run up such a height with the heat of the Bed, that they would never flower worth a farthing, but being sowed when the Bed is almost cold, they will come up green and be brave stocky Plants; when they have three Leaves or more, plant them out into the other Melon, (which will be then time to remove the Melon-Plants to stand all the year) and plant the Colly-flowers up to the Leaves, and water them with Water wherein Sheep or Pigeon-Dung hath been soaked, and you shall find them thrive abundantly.

Thus

Thus much for the Colly-flower. Now to Plant the Melons where they ſhall ſtand all the year; dig a large Trench about four foot deep, and three foot over, and place therein ſome Dung that will heat; about three foot deep let the Dung be, then make a ſquare hole about a foot deep, and half a yard ſquare, and put ſome very rich Mold in about half full; then taking up your Melons very carefully, ſet three Melons to a Hole, (or two and a Cucumber) and place them triangular, and ſet deep with ſome of their warm Mold, that the tops of the Leaves may be level with the top of the Bed; then ſet your Glaſſes upon them and cover them very warm, and water them with Dung-water for two or three days after you have ſet them, let the Water be Blood-warm; if it ſhould prove a backward Spring, you muſt keep them very warm, and not leave them uncovered till all the Froſts be gone; you muſt ſerve your forward Cucumbers after the ſame manner: But for your latter Cucumbers order them thus; About the latter end of *March* or beginning of *April*, dig a Trench as you did for the Melons, and fill it with new Horſe-Dung; your Trench may be from 3 yards to 20, fill it up with new Horſe-Dung, and make ſquare holes as when you planted the Melons, and fill the Holes with rich Mold, and ſet the Seed two inches deep into the Mold; you may ſet a dozen Seeds into a Hole, and cut the worſt away; when they come up, cover them with Straw or Cabbage-leaves to ſhelter them from Wind and Weather till they have got four or five leaves, and then you may truſt them, and not fail of Cucumbers in abundance. Plant your Pompion upon a Dunghil if you can, if not, dig a large Trench

and

and fill it with Dung that may a little heat, and make ſquare Holes, and plant three in a Hole (triangular) in Mold, and when you perceive them above-ground, water them very well with Dung-water, and they will thrive exceeding well; when you ſee a Pompion kernel'd and grown to the bigneſs of a Gooſe Egg, and the Runner ſhoot forward, and produce another a yard beyond him, lay the Runner half a foot or more in the Ground, and it will ſhoot out Roots and nouriſh the other Pompion, for that next the Root intercepts all the Sap from the other, and in two or three days will pine to nothing; obſerving this direction, you may have nine or ten upon a Root, otherwiſe very ſeldom above three, I have ſeen nine very large ones upon a Root. Now your Colly-flowers having ſix or ſeven Leaves are ready to be planted, and order them thus; Dig as many Holes about a foot ſquare and deep, and a yard apart, and make a Hole between every four, then put a ſhovelful or two of good rotten Dung into every Hole, and mix it well together; then taking up your Plants very carefully with the Mold, ſet them in ſo deep that the tops of the Leaves may not be ſo high as the Ground, and water them very well, then lay a Cabbage-leaf over every hole to keep the hot Sun and cold Air from them; if it be a very dry time, water them often, or elſe you will be deceived in the flowering of them.

How

How to order Gooſe-berries and Currans.

WHen you go about to plant your Gooſe-berry and Curran-Garden, chuſe out thoſe Trees that are ſtreight and without knots, and plant them in Ground well dunged, they thrive beſt in a ſandy Mold; after they have ſtood one year, if there be any young Shoots, cut them all off very cloſe to the Body, and ſuffer not a buſhy head, but let it be very thin kept, and then the Sun ſhall ripen him and he will grow extraordinary large: Order your Currans after the ſame manner, and Roſe alſo, and your Garden ſhall look comely and handſome, and bear far better than if they were three-times as big; every two years you muſt refreſh them with Dung, if you intend to have them very large: If you keep your Gooſe-berries and Currans to one Head, the ſhadow of them will do no injury, but you may plant any ſort of Flowers or Herbs under them, and they ſhall proſper and thrive as well as if there were no Trees ſtanding.

How to Preſerve and Increaſe all ſorts of Carnations and Auriculaſſes.

SEveral People that love and delight in Flowers, and thoſe of the beſt ſort, as Carnations and Auriculaſſes, yet through ignorance and want of care they very ſeldom live above two years, ſo are almoſt tired and diſheartned to renew their former delights; and the reaſon is, becauſe they have not the true way of preſerving and increaſing them: Firſt, How to preſerve them; It hath been an uſual

way

way to ſet them in ſeveral Pots, and in hard Weather to remove them into the Houſe, which hath proved ſo troubleſome and chargeable (for they muſt have a little Houſe on purpoſe) that moſt are weary of it, except them that make it their livelyhood: Now obſerve this way, and you ſhall have better Flowers and loſe few; When you have bought your Layers of the beſt Flowers, ſet them in a Bed of pure Mold, rooted from Horſe-Dung and not Cow-Dung, becauſe it encreaſeth Worms which will devour the Flowers; when it draws near Winter, take ſome ſhort new Horſe-Dung, and lay it at leaſt a foot thick all over the Bed between the Flowers, and have ſome Earthen Pots about a foot deep with their bottoms out to ſtand over the Flowers to keep the Dung from them, and when it is very hard, cover the top of your Pot with a Tile, and it will keep your Flowers from Froſt and weat Weather, which is the deſtruction of a thouſand in a year; when it is a fine day give them Air and Sun-ſhine, and cover them again at Night, this way ſhall ſave you a great deal of trouble to remove them into your Houſe in hard Weather: Now to increaſe them, about *July* or *Auguſt*, if you have Slips upon your Flowers, take a ſharp Knife, and at a Knot cut it half in two, let the Knot be an inch or more from the Stem, then with a little hooked Stick peg it cloſe to the Ground, and cover it over with Earth like a little Mole-hill; and when you perceive that the Layer hath taken Root, cut it off with a ſharp Knife, and take it up Mold and all and plant it out, and ſo you may encreaſe your Stock; theſe great ſort of Flowers will not grow with ſlipping as your Clove-Gilly-Flowers: you muſt

ſlip

ſlip your Auriculaſſes, and preſerve them after the ſame manner as I directed for the Carnation.

An excellent way to recover any Horſe or Cow that is ſtiff with Cold, being Mired in a Ditch.

I Have ſeen ſeveral Beaſts that have happened by ſome miſcarriage to fall into a Ditch or Pond, and having ſtayed ſome conſiderable time, they have been ſo ſtiff as though they had been dead. Now to recover theſe deadiſh ſtiff Limbs, order him thus; If he be ſo ſtiff that he is not in a capacity to go, get a Cart and carry him home, then give him half an ounce of Mithridate in a quart of ſtrong Ale, where a handful of Rue, Angelica and Balm hath been boiled; then put him into a hot Dunghil, and chafe his Joints very well with the Oil of St. *John*'s-Wort and Rue mixed together, and by the next morning you ſhall find him recovered; but keep anointing of his Legs for three or four days after, and if occaſion require, put him another night in the Dung and give him the like quantity again.

How to order all Phyſical Herbs growing here, to thrive and proſper.

VEry many People of all ſorts have been making of your Phyſick-Gardens, not for any great uſe they have made of them, but moſt out of curioſity to ſee the variety of Plants, which not knowing rightly to order, have had the greateſt part of them (for want of ſome inſtructions) been dead and decayed in two years time; therefore I have here ſet down ſome certain approved Rules for their preſervation:

vation: Firſt, When you have made your Garden, then conſider how many ſorts of Earth, and the ſeveral ſhady places for Herbs that love it, for you muſt conſider the nature of the Herb what it delights in. I ſhall give ſix or ſeven Examples which I hope will be ſufficient for all; as firſt, For your Adder-tongue it grows in moiſt low Grounds and Meadows; if this Herb be planted in a hot Ground, it may flouriſh a little for the firſt year, but you may look for it in the Meadows the next, therefore plant him in ſome moiſt place of the Garden: Angelica is an Herb hot and dry, if you plant it in a cold moiſt Ground, it pines away and comes not to any thing, therefore the richeſt Ground is beſt: Liver-wort is a Herb that delights to grow in moiſt ſhady places, as by the heads of Springs and Ponds, and inſides of Wells, and is green all the year; this Herb muſt be planted by ſome moiſt Wall or ſhady Bank, where it ſees very little of the Sun, for any heat or dryth kills it: Roſemary is a hot and dry Herb, delights to grow in the Sun, and near a Wall, if that be planted in a cold ſpringy place, it pines away to nothing; if your Ground be very cold, and Roſemary ſubject to die, mingle half your Mold with Lime and it will thrive and proſper extraordinary: Obſerve one thing, There is no Herb that grows, if it doth not delight in the Sun; that is good for the Heart. Harts-tongue delights by High-way ſides in Banks of Ditches, and not in the bottoms; plant him upon the Bank of ſome Ditch. Penny-royal delights in a hot and moiſt place; plant it where it may only have the morning Sun, keep it low, and ſuffer it not to grow into long Branches, for then it uſually dies in the end: Take notice always,

wayes, That what Herbs you plant, order the place where you set it, to be of the nature of your Plant; that is, thus; If your Herb be hot and dry, a hot and dry place in your Garden; if cold and dry, a cold and dry place; so hot and moist, and cold and moist; you may know the temperature of any Herb almost by the place where you find him naturally to grow; for it's contrary to Sense and Reason, that cold and moist Herbs should thrive in hot and dry places.

How to gather Herbs, and a true way to dry them.

THey that intend to dry Herbs to have them good, must observe their Times and Seasons: Gather your Herbs where they naturally grow, as your Betony it delights in Woods; gather him when it begins to bud out for flowering; tie them up in small Bunches, and hang it cross the Lines in the Wind and Sun; the quicker you dry any Herbs, the far better it is; gather always in a dry day, and let it not hang where it can rain upon it, for that will make it look black, and also take away the scent; when you have dryed them, put them in Brown-Paper-Bags, and before Winter, lay them two or three hours in the Sun, and that will very much refresh them; hang them in a warm dry place but not too hot, for then the heat will draw out the Spirits of them.

Here is but three things to be observed to have extraordinary good dryed Herbs; Gather them in

the Prime; pick them clean from withered rotten Leaves; and dry them quick in the Sun and Wind; to preserve them, keeping them neither too hot nor too cold, and air them in the Sun three or four times in a Winter.

Thus I have in short shewed the Planting, Gathering, and Drying of Herbs.

SOME

SOME

Further Additions

Concerning

Singing-Birds.

WE having ſpoke before of ſome varieties for Profit, and alſo Pleaſure in ordering of ſeveral ſorts of Fruit-trees, and Gardening, and a ſmall touch of Recreation for taking of Fiſh and Birds; but now I do intend to enter into a Diſcourſe of Taking, Preſerving, and Keeping all ſorts of Birds which ſing melodiouſly with raviſhing ſweet and pleaſant Songs, wherewith the Maſter may have his Recreation and Pleaſure, by hearing them ſing in his Cloſes, Hedges, Parks, or at his Chamber-Window, or otherwiſe ſhut up in ſome Cages, Rooms, or Aviaries, with Out-lets for them to take the Air made for that

purpose, to contain the Subject of such pleasure and delightsome Melody: And that we may not omit any thing, before we lay down any particular Manner or Way of taking such Birds, we shall take a short view of the Nature, Breeding, Feeding, and Diseases of the same; for in my Opinion it were almost labour in vain to take Birds, if to the end we may not enjoy their sweet and melodious Songs for some considerable time; for without you know what Meat is agreeable to them, and rightly to order them, and what Diseases and Infirmities they are subject unto, and what Means and Remedies are necessary to be used for their Distemperatures. In the mean time I intend not here to bring in Fabulous Stories and Histories of their Original Breeding, which fantastical Poets have vainly imagined and invented, but resolve to rest my self contented with this strong perswasion, That all Birds from the beginning of the World, were miraculously created by God's Almighty Power, of his own meer Will and Word, whereby he created all other Creatures in the beginning of the World.

Of the Nightingale.

NOW every Man hath almoſt a ſeveral phanſie, ſome make choice of one Bird, ſome of another; but in my choice and opinion, the Nightingal hath the ſuperiority above all others, and almoſt according to the judgment and conſent of every one, ſhe ſingeth with ſo much variety the ſweeteſt and melodieſt of all others. I need not much deſcribe the Bird, by reaſon ſhe is ſufficiently known to moſt People, by reaſon of her plentifulneſs and tameneſs, and far more kept in *Italy* than in any other parts of the World, though in moſt Countries I have been they keep them little or much. They appear to us at the beginning of *April*, (none as yet knowing where their Habitation is during all the Winter); I have made ſeveral tryals in the beginning, middle, and latter end of *Auguſt*, of ſeveral Nightingals that I have taken, being ſo extream fat, that they being turned looſe, could not fly forty yards, and when down, was not able to riſe again, which makes moſt believe that they take up their dwelling here all the Winter, and think them to ſleep; for I have had ſeveral, when fat, to be three weeks and not eat one bit of meat, which in ſome ſhort time begins to make her Neſt; uſually ſhe makes it about a foot and a half or two foot above Ground, either in thick Quick-ſet Hedges, or in Beds of Nettles, where old Quick-ſet hath been thrown together, and Nettles grown through, and makes it of ſuch materials as the place affords; ſhe hath commonly young ones at the beginning of the Month of *May*,

when all the Earth is beſet and ſpangled with the curious varieties of all odoriferous Flowers, and pleaſant greenneſs; and in Groves and thick Buſhes formed in the likeneſs of a Wilderneſs, upon which the Sun in the morning doth caſt his cool and temperate Beams, from noon till the ſetting thereof; ſhe naturally delights to haunt cool places, where ſmall Rivolets, Fountains, and Brooks are accommodated, with Groves, Shades, thick Quick-ſet Hedges, and other well-ſhadowed places not far diſtant. I told afore how I found their Neſts made, but ſome have affirmed to me, That they have found them upon the Ground, at the bottom of Hedges, and amongſt waſt Grounds; and ſome of them that have found them upon Banks that have been raiſed, and then overgrown with thick Graſs, in which they have built their Neſts; I never found any built in ſuch places, yet I cannot ſay but other Countries may make the Birds to differ in their Building, though not in their Songs. As for the number of their Eggs it's uncertain, ſome three or four, and ſome five, according to the ſtrength of their Bodies. Now the Nightingale which I would adviſe you to keep, let him be of the earlieſt Birds that is bred in the Spring, for the earlier the better, by reaſon ſhe will become more perfect in her Songs, for the old one hath more time to ſing over, or continues longer in ſinging than thoſe that are bred later, and you may have better hope and aſſurance of long living, and being brought up and kept with more eaſe and ſafety; for having the Summer before them, they throw off and mue, and caſt their Feathers much ſooner and quicker than later in the year; for if ſhe caſt her Feathers at the end of the

year,

year, she is subject to be over run with certain Vermin which hinders the growth of Feathers, which the cold coming, and finding her bare of Feathers causeth her to die; which happeneth to several that are latter Birds at the end of Summer, and commonly prove most to be Hens, and if Cocks, seldom worth keeping. The young Nightingals must be taken out of their Nests when they are indifferent well feathered, and not too little nor too much; if too much, they will be sullen; and if too little, if you keep them not very warm they will die with cold; and then also they will be much longer a bringing up. Their Meat may be made of Lean Beef, Sheeps-Heart, or Bullocks-Heart; you shall first pull off the fat Skin that covereth the Heart, and take out the Sinews as clean as you can, then soak the quantity of White-Bread in Water, and squeeze out some of the Water; then chop it small as if it were for minced Meat; so with a Stick take up the quantity of a Gray Pea, and give every one three or four such Goblets in an hours time, as long as they shall endure to abide in the Nests; when they begin to grow strong, and fly out of the Nest when you feed them, then put them into a Cage with several Pearches for them to sit upon, and line them with some Green Bays, for they are very subject to the Cramp at first, and at the bottom of the Cage put some fine Moss or Hay for them to sit on when they please; always observing to keep them as clean as may be possible, for if you bring them up nasty they will always be so; and so in all other Birds, it will be convenient to line their Cages against Winter, or else to keep them in some warm place: When you cage them up from

the Neſt, put always ſome of their Meat by them, with a few Ants in it, to teach them to feed themſelves. You muſt keep them a little hungryer than ordinary when you cage them, and then they will ſooner take to their Meat to feed alone; and when he doth feed, be ſure to give four or five times a day, a Gobbet or two at a time, for they will not feed enough at firſt to ſatisfie themſelves; you muſt make freſh Meat every day in the Summer, otherwiſe if it ſtand longer, it will be very ſubject to ſtink and turn ſower; when they begin to Moult, or caſt their Feathers, give them half an Egg, and the other half Sheeps-Heart, with a little Saffron mixed in the Water, for you muſt make it not too ſtiff nor too limber, let the Egg be boiled very hard, and not too ſtale; Give them no Duck-Eggs, for I had 6 Nightingales killed one Night with a Duck-Egg: For want of this Meat (uſing them to it) you may give them ſome Wood-Larks Meat, which will be ſhewed the way of making when I come to treat of that Bird: You may uſe your Nightingal to ſeveral ſorts of Meats, ſo that for three or four days, if you can get no Fleſh you may keep them alive. I ſhall ſhew you hereafter to make a Paſte which ſhall ſerve upon all occaſions, if you can get no Fleſh, I have fed them two or three days with your Red-Worms and Caterpillars and Hog-lice, and a few Meal-Worms; to give them now and then a Meal-Worm makes them familiar, ſo you let them take it out of your hands, but too many ſpoils them, without they are very poor and drooping.

How to find the Nightingals Nest, and to take Branchers.

NOw I have shewed where they Build, and how to Feed and Order them, I shall shew you the way of taking Young and Old. For taking of Young Birds, observe where the Cock sings, and if you find him to sing long in a place, then the Hen sits not far off; but if he hath young ones, he will ever now and then be missing, and then the Hen when you come near her Nest will sweet and cur; and if you have searched long and cannot find them, stick a Meal-Worm or two upon a Thorn, and observe which way he carried it, and stand still, or lie down, and you will hear them when she feeds them, (they make a great noise for so small a Bird); when you have found the Nest, if they be not fledged enough, touch them not, for if you do, they will never tarry in the Nest, and then it will be lost labour, to be deprived of it when you have found it: Now for to take your Branches, which is young ones that have been bred up by the old ones in the Field, You must go to such places that are most likely for Food, for the Old ones when they have pushed the Young ones out of the Nest, (which we call Pushers) leads them from the place they were bred in, to a place more plentiful of Food, for they commonly destroy all the Food that is near in bringing them up, so are forced to seek out further to preserve their young ones: When you have found where they be, which you shall know by their curring and sweeting; for if you call true, they will answer you immediately; then making

making observation where they most delight, as you shall perceive by their Dung, and if they be disturbed from the place, to make to it again; Now having all your Tackle by you, scrape in the Ditch or Bank-side (about half a yard or more square) the Earth that it may look fresh, then take a Bird-Trap, or a Net-Trap, which is thus made; Take a Net made of Green Thread or Silk about the compass of a yard, made after the fashion of a Shove-Net to catch Fish, or a Cabbage-Net; then get some of your large sort of Wire, bending of it round, and joyn both ends, which you must put into a short stick about an inch and a half long; then you must have a piece of Iron with two Cheeks, and a hole of each side, which you must put some Cats-gut or fine Whip-cord three or four times double, that so it may hold the piece of Wood the better that the ends of the Wire is put into, and with a Button of each side of the Iron twist the Whip-cord, that so the Net may play the quicker; you must fasten the Net to the Wire, as they do a Shove-Net to the Hoops; then get a Board of the Compass of your Wire, and joyn your two Cheeks of Iron at the handle of your Board; then make a Hole in the middle of your Board, and put a piece of Stick about two inches long, and a Hole at the top of your Stick, which you must have a Peg to put in with two Wires, an inch and half, to stick your Meal-Worm upon; then tie a string in the middle of the top of your Net, drawing the Net up, having an eye at the end of the handle to put your Thread through, pull it till it stands upright, then pull it through the Hole of the stick that stands in the middle of your Board, and put your Peg in the

Hole,

Hole, and that will hold the String that the Net cannot fall down; you must put two Worms upon the Wires before you put it into the Hole, and set it as gently as you can, that the Bird may throw it down with the first touch; when you have your Net and Worm ready, after you scraped the place, then put some Ants in your Trap-Cage, and upon your Board, put some Worms upon Thorns, and set them at the bottom of your Trap-Cage, little Holes being made for the same purpose to stick in the ends of your Thorns; then plant your Trap near to the place where you heard them call, either in the Ditch or by the Bank-side, or corner of a Hedg, and then walk away, and in a short time you will find them taken; you may set three or four Traps according to your pleasure.

How to Order them when taken.

SO soon as you have taken the Nightingal in *July* or *August*, Tie the end of his Wing with some brown Thread, that so he may not have strength to beat himself against the top and Wires of the Cage, for by this order he will grow tame sooner, and be more apt to eat his Meat, whereas otherwise he will be hard to tame; for seeing himself deprived of his liberty, he becometh not tame till some time after. You shall shut him up in a Cage covered above half with green Bays or brown Paper, or else turn the Cage to the light in some private place, that so at first he be not disturbed, to make him wilder than he would be, for it is convenient for three or four days not to let him see much Company; in the mean time have regard to feed him five or six times at the least

least every day: You must feed him with the Sheeps-Heart and Egg shred small and fine, mingling amongst the same some Red Ants, and three or four Red Earth-Worms mixed with it; ordering of him thus, for you are to take notice that no Nightingal at the first taking will eat any Sheeps-Heart, or Paste, or hard Egg, but live-Meat, as Worms, Ants, Caterpillars, or Flies; therefore taking of him out in your hand, you must open his Bill with a Stick made thin at one end, and holding of it open, give him a gobbet about the bigness of a Gray Pea, then when he hath swallowed that, open his Bill and give him another, till he hath had four or five such Bits; then set him some Meat mingled with store of Ants, that when he goes to pick up the Ants, he may eat some of the Sheeps-Heart and Egg with it, put also good store of Ants at the bottom of the Cage to keep him eating, and from being melancholy; at the first you may shred three or four Meal-Worms in his Meat, the better to entice him, that so he may therewith eat some of the Sheeps-Heart by little and little; at last when you perceive him to eat, give him the less Ants in his Meat, and at last give him nothing but the Sheeps-Heart and Egg; if you perceive him to eat it willingly, which thing is easie to be discerned of any Man of Judgment: These Nightingals that are taken at this time of the year, will not sing till the middle of *October*, and then they will hold in Song till the middle of *June*.

To

To bring up Nightingals that are taken, from the first of April till the twentieth day.

THE Nightingals that are taken after the first of *April* until the latter end, are the only Birds in the World for Song, and fit to be brought up; you may go out in the Morning and Evening; and having heard several Birds, make choice of them that have best variety of Song, and hold out their Song without breaking off in several quirks, and is most lavish, throwing of it out at pleasure; you must plant your Trap-Cages or Trap-Nets, as you did formerly for the Branchers which were taken in *June*, *July*, or *August*; When you go a taking, carry a Bottom-bag with you, and some Meat in a Gally-Pot to feed him abroad, for if they be over-fasted they seldom live, which at that time in the year they require to be fed every hour, for when you have set your Trap for others, you may sit and refresh them you have in your Bag; be sure to tie their Wings at the end as soon as taken, and put or cut their Feathers from their vent, otherwise they will be subject to clog and bake up their vent, which is present death; when you come home, cram them as I directed in the Branchers, and in the bottom of the Cage put Dirt and Ants, and set some Meat made with Sheeps-Heart and Egg, and mingled with Ants, and two or three Meal-Worms cut in pieces put into his Pan, and set him in a place that he may see no Body to fright him till he is wonted to the Cage, and hath forgot his former liberty; be sure to feed him seven or eight times a day, with three or four pieces of Meat as big as a Pea, opening his

Bill

Bill with a thin Stick, as I directed before, for at this time of the year they are apter to die for want of Food by one half than in *July* or *August*; when you perceive him to eat the Meat with the Ants and Meal-Worms, for usually at first for two or three days they will pick out all the Ants and Meal-Worms, and eat not one bit of the Sheeps-Heart and Egg, and the reason is, That they feeding only upon live-Meat, do not know that any thing is for Food but what stirs; when you perceive certainly that she eats of the Meat as well as Ants and Meal-Worms, put but a few Ants in, and in a day or two none at all; then by degrees shew him more openly to peoples sight: but if you find he is sullen, as many will be, you must have the more patience, (for there is very great difference in the humors of them, as shall be shewed hereafter) and get some Gentles or Maggots, and take your Paste and roll it up in pieces like unto little Worms about half an inch long, and put amongst them some Ants, and put your Maggots at the bottom of your Pan; then put your Paste rolled like Worms upon the Maggots, and them stirring at the bottom will make the Paste move as if it were alive, which will cause the Nightingal to eat it more readily than ordinary; and when he hath tasted the Past or Meat made of Sheeps-Heart two or three times, he then is not apt to forsake it: but if you find him at first eating to eat sparingly, cram him two or three times a day, and give him store of Ants and their Eggs, for there are some Old ones that do as far exceed their Young as Gold is beyond Silver; for I have for many years observed, That Nestlings nor Branchers, except they have an old Bird to sing over them,

have not the true Song for the first year; only that this can be said for them, They are a bold Wild Bird, and so many do approve of them because of their familiarness.

To know whether the Nightingal eats, and is likely to prove good.

WHen you have accustomed him that he begins to be tame, and hear him to cur and sweet with chearfulness, and record safely to himself, it is certain sign he eateth, and you need not further trouble your self about cramming of him; some will sing before they feed, and them commonly prove very good Birds; also your Birds that are long a-feeding, and make no curring nor sweeting for the space of eight or ten days, seldom prove good, for they are Hens, or Birds not worth keeping, or continue a whole month without singing: but on the contrary, They give great hope of proving well, when they take their Meat kindly, and are familiar, and not buckish, and sing quickly, and learn to eat of themselves without much trouble, it's a sure token of their proving excellent Birds, for I have had some Birds feed in twelve hours after taking of them, and sing in two or three days, and them never have proved bad. And again, I had a Bird that was fourteen days and would not eat, but when he did, was not worth the Meat he eat: If you have a Bird that will flutter and bolt up his head against the top of the Cage in the night, never keep him, for he is never good, but doth a far greater mischief, he causeth all the other, by his evil example, to beat themselves also; for nothing

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can be more prejudicial to a Bird than to bruise himself, which is a sign he takes no pleasure in his Habitation; therefore either turn him loose with a mark to be known, or wring off his head that no Body may further be troubled with his ill qualities, than which none can be worse.

How to know the Cock-Nightingal from the Hen.

THe Opinions and several Judgments of Men concerning Nightingals, (that is) namely, to have any perfect rule to know one Sex from another, are very sundry and divers, you must understand those are for old Birds taken in the Spring; I shall give you several Mens Opinions, and then my own at last, (for it is a very great vexation to keep your Hens four or five months instead of Cocks, and not only the trouble and charge, but to be frustrated in our expectation, at last expecting a great deal of pleasure, it proves a vexation). First, Some do undertake to distinguish the Cock from the Hen, by their grossness, saying, That the Cock is much the larger and fuller Bird, both in length and bigness: Others are of Opinion, That the Cock hath a greater Eye, a longer Beak, and a reddisher Tail; Others again distinguish by the Pinnion of the Wing, and the Feathers upon the Head: All which Opinions and Judgments I have found very deceitful, and far wide of the true and perfect knowledg of the Truth, for I have had perfect brave Cocks, Song-Nightingals, and that a great number of them, that have been very small and little, having all the marks ascribed to them to be Hens, and Hens with several Marks that have been assigned to the Cocks;

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Wherefore for a more ſure and certain ſign, you ſhall be put out of doubt, and truſt to theſe following Obſervations: Firſt, As concerning your Neſtlings that are taken out from the Old ones in the Neſt before they can feed; obſerve this Rule, and mark it well, That if any of the young Birds or Neſtlings (before they can feed themſelves) do record ſomething of Song to themſelves; and if you mark them well, you ſhall perceive their Throats to wag when they record: Mark, thoſe Birds for your uſe, for it's a certain ſign, as I have experimented it, that they are all Cocks; but when they come to feed themſelves, the Hen will Record as well as the Cock; therefore give him ſome mark when they are young, for it is very difficult to diſtinguiſh afterward. In the next place, is your Prancher, which the old Bird hath brought up to feed himſelf before you take him; when you have taken this Bird, and he feeds himſelf, he will preſently begin to Record, both Cocks and Hens; but the Cock is much differing from the Hen, for the Cock continues his recording much longer than the Hen, and louder, and much oftner in the day-time; and alſo you ſhall perceive the Cock to ſweet and cut much oftner than the Hen, and alſo with more Spirit and much louder, and uſually you will find him ſtanding upon one Leg, and holding on his warbling notes, which you ſhall perceive by the motion of his Breſt, with a long continuance, which is not to be found in the Hen, for ſhe goeth hopping and whiſtling up and down the Cage, making a Noiſe more like than a Song, that is very much interrupted and ſhort.

To order the Nightingal which eateth alone and singeth.

WHen you shall find that the Nitingal that eats well by himself, and that sings often, without seeming to be disturbed at every little noise, you shall by little and little put back the Green-Bayes wherewith the fore-side of the Cage is covered (for those Cages are most convenient for Nightingals, that have the Wire only afore, and all the other parts made up; though I have many times kept them in Wood-Dark Cages, but I do not find them so convenient, by reason of the warmth; and then the Nightingal being a buckish Bird, is apt to strike his Head against the top-Wires, which very often proves his death, for no Nitingal is fit to be put in one of those open Cages, but those that are very tame and familiar; and most People are deficient in lining the other Nightingal-Cages at top, which is very necessary, for many Birds have beat out their brains (against the top-Board for want of lining) every day a little in such sort that the Bird may not perceive it; and as you uncover him, set him by little and little more in the sight of People, that so he may grow bolder, and not be frightned with the light and motions of People, nor with any sudden noise; the best way is to hang him towards the top of the Cieling upon a Nail, for they do not delight to hang low; for if he be full in Song, and you hang him upon a sudden amongst much Company, and open, or put back the Green-Bays, and give him too much light all at once, he will immediately break off singing, and ten to one if he sings till

next *October* following; then you must take great care that you do all things by degrees; for notwithstanding I have read in Natural Histories, That it is very hard and difficult to bring him to singing, if you breed him not up from the Nest; which Opinion of the Ancient Philosophers hath proved very ridiculous and false, by many hundred ordinary Experiments; for it is very often seen (and I have often proved) that old Nightingals are far perfecter and far excellenter in their Songs than any Nestling or Brancher whatsoever, and will come to sing as lavish and as often, and with care and a little trouble will know you and be as familiar also. I will not deny, notwithstanding what I have said, but some that have been curious observers of Marks, may if they take them together; but this is that I affirm, That several have been mightily deceived by those Marks before mentioned; but by the singing, the Nightingals taken in *August* are most certainly and evidently apparent to be discerned. And as for those which are taken in *April*, your knowledg resteth in these several Observations; First, When you have taken the Bird that you think you heard sing, call again, and if the Cock answers and sings again, then you have taken the Hen and not the Cock; but if you find the Cock not to sing, then be assured you have the Male; for if you take the Hen at first, and he missing of his Hen will sing extraordinarily, also in lower parts of the Sex which the Cocks put forth, which the Hens do not; but if you take a Bird about the middle of *May*, or beginning of *June*, you may perceive the Hen very apparently from the Cock, by reason all the Breast of the Hen will be bare with Sitting, and all full of

ſcurf, when the Cock's-Breſt is all well-feathered, without any bareneſs or ſcurf: Theſe therefore are the moſt certain Rules and Obſervations that ever I could find in all my Experience, whereunto you may truſt and betake your ſelf.

How to make the Paſte which the Nightingals eat, being likewiſe good for the Wren, Robin-Red-Breſt, Wood-Lark, Skie-Lark, Black-Bird, and Throſtles, and many other Birds.

TO make this Paſte for ſeveral ſorts of Birds, which before in ſeveral Chapters we have mentioned, Take half a peck of your fineſt Horſe-beans being very dry, and let them be ground very fine, and boulted diligently through a very fine Boulter, as is uſed for Wheaten-Meal; do ſo much in quantity as may be convenient for your turn, or according to your ſtock of Birds you keep. For Example; Let your quantity of Meal be two pound, with one pound of the beſt Sweet-Almonds blanched; which afterwards muſt be very well beat in a Morter, rather finer than thoſe Almonds that are beat for March-panes; then take four ounces of freſh Butter, I mean, without any Salt, which Butter you muſt put in a Copper-Pan well tinned, and mix them very well together, the ſaid Flower, and Almonds, and Butter: when you have done this, ſet the Pan upon a Charcole-fire, that it may not ſmell of Smoke, continually ſtirring of it whilſt it ſtands upon the Fire with a Wooden Spoon, that ſo it may boil by degrees, and not burn to; then take four Yolks of Eggs, and a little Saffron; when you perceive the Butter to be all melted, then having

ſome

ſome live Virgins-Hony, drop in ſo much by degrees continually ſtirring of it, that it may incorporate all the things in one, if you do not keep it continually ſtirring, it will be very ſubject to burn to: When you have ſo done, you ſhall take a Cullender made with ſuch Holes as will let paſs all that is ſmall and lies not in knobs; then take the remainder of the Paſte and beat it in a Morter again; if you find it will not paſs through the Holes of the Cullender, then ſet it upon the fire again and boil it gently; then try again to force it through the Cullender, till it come in ſuch quantity and quality as is requiſite for the neceſſity of what ſtore of Birds you do intend to keep: if there remains ſtill ſome of the Paſte which would not paſs through the Holes of the Cullender, ſet it upon the fire to boil very well, and make a further eſſay to force it all through, ſo far forth as it may all be brought to a juſt conſiſtency: And for the keeping of it, you muſt pour Hony above, let your Hony be melted firſt, and a little clarified, and ſo you have ſtore of Proviſion for many Months: this Paſte may be mixed with your Sheeps-Heart, or with your Wood-Larks Meat, or any other Birds Meat whatſoever, for it is a brave ſtrengthening, cleanſing Diet, for all ſorts of ſoft-beaked Birds. This is the only Meat that is uſed in *Italy*, by all the Country-People for the preſerving of Nightingals, and is made by the Apothecaries, and ſold out by the penny-worth, as frequently as Mithridate or Diaſcordium is here: This is ready at all times, when once made, and will continue ſeven or eight months.

The several sorts of Diseases the Nightingal is subject to, and how to relieve them.

THe Nightingal, as I have before observed, about the latter end of *August*, grows extraordinary fat, both abroad in the Fields, and also in Houses where they are caged up, which most do look upon to be very dangerous when it begins to abate if they do not sing; but to help this, They must be kept very warm upon the falling of their fat, and also given some Saffron in their Meat or Water; but when they are perceived to grow fat, they must be purged two or three times a-week with some Worms that are taken out of a Pigeon-House, for the space of four or five weeks together, and also you shall find very frequent about the beginning of *August* about your Vines, or Currans, or Goose-berry Bushes, a sort of speckled Spider (which is to be found at no time of the year else) they are very plentiful; so you may give them two or three in a day as long as they last, for this will purge and cleanse them extraordinary: if they grow melancholy, put into their Water or Drinking-Pot some White Sugar-Candy, with a slice or two of Liquorish; and if this doth not help them, but they still complain, put into their Water-Pot six or eight chives of Saffron, or there-about, continuing withal to give them the Paste and Sheeps-Heart shred very fine, and also give them three or four Meal-Worms a day, and a few Ants and their Eggs; and also boil a new laid Egg very hard, and chop it small and strew it amongst the Ants and their Eggs, for I have had them, when very fat, to fast seven-

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ten or eighteen days together, but it is far better when they eat. Nightingals that have been kept two or three years in a Cage, are very subject to the Gout; now when you shall perceive it, take them out of their Cage and anoint their Feet with fresh Butter or Capons-Grease; do so three or four days together, and it is a certain Cure for them. I had almost forgot the principal thing that causes the most of Diseases in your Nightingal; which is this, That for want of keeping them clean and neat they clog their feet, which causes several to have their Claws to rot off, and it brings the Cramp and Gout, and makes them never thrive nor delight in themselves; therfore be sure to let them have twice a week Gravel at the bottom of the Cage, and let it be very dry when you put it in, for then it will not be subject to clog, for I look upon a Bird as good as dead, when they are continually clogged; for if they be in heart, they will pick and clean their Feet, and prune their Feathers; no Bird can be kept too clean nor too neat, for that causes them to take delight in themselves. The next thing the Nightingal is subject to, Is Apostems, and breaking out about their Eyes and Neb, for which you shall likewise use your fresh Butter or Capons-Grease. I shall now shew you a great secret to raise Nightingals that are very bare, When you see an absolute necessity for it, give them new Figs chopped very small amongst their Sheeps-Heart and Paste, or hard Eggs, and when they are recovered, bring them again to their ordinary Diet, that may continue to maintain them in their former plight, for as soon as ever you perceive they are growing fat, give them no more Figs. There also happeneth unto the

Nightingal another Diſeaſe, called the Straitneſs or ſtrangling of the Breaſt, which comes very often for want of care in making of their Meat, by mincing fat Meat therewith; and you may perceive it by the beating pain not afore accuſtomed, which he abideth in this place; and alſo by this, when he is given very often to gape, and opening his Bill. This Diſeaſe alſo happeneth, by reaſon of ſome Sinew or Thread of the Sheeps-Heart (for want of well ſhreding with a ſharp Knife) to hang in his Throat, or many times it will claſp about his Tongue, which cauſeth him to forſake his Meat, and grow very poor in a ſhort time, eſpecially if it be in the Spring-time, or when he is in Song: Now as ſoon as you ſhall perceive him to gape, or ſhaking open his Bill, take him gently out of his Cage, and open his Bill with a Quill or Pin, and unlooſen any ſtring or looſe piece of Fleſh that may hang about his Tongue or Throat; I have ſeen very many that have been killed with ſome of the Sinew or looſe Fleſh hanging about the Tongue and Throat; after you have taken it away, give him ſome white Sugar-Candy in his Water, or elſe diſſolve it and moiſten his Meat, which is a preſent Remedy to cure any thing that is amiſs; for in brief I muſt tell you, All Birds that eat Sheaps-Heart, or other Heart, if the Keeper and Maker be not careful to mince it very fine, are very ſubject to be troubled with the Diſeaſe afore mentioned, and are ſeldom good afterwards.

Now

Now I shall give you a brief Observation of what Birds are like to prove best.

THose Nightingals that inhabit by High-Ways and Orchards, and sing close by Houses, and are us'd to the company of People, are far beyond those that are bred in Copices and more remote places; for I have many times observed, That Birds taken where People have much frequented, will feed much sooner, and sing also, and come to be familiar in a short time, when others that are taken farther off, are long before they come to feed, and for the most part are very subject to fright, and upon the least dislike will give off singing; for when you have taken any Bird, and find him stubborn and not take his Meat kindly, and beat himself against the Cage, set him flying again for he will never prove worth keeping. Be careful not to untie the Wing of your Nightingal till they are very tame and familiar, for if you do, when they find themselves free, they will fall immediately a-beating themselves, so you must be forced to new-tie, or else your Bird will quickly beat himself to death, or if not, he will make himself uncapable of singing that year.

Now concerning the Wood-Lark.

THis Bird very many hold not much inferior in Song to the Nightingal; nay, a great many do prefer him before it; but it is of this Bird as of all other, some are far excellenter than others, both in length and sweetness of Songs I have known some

some Wood-Larks to have a great part of the Nightingal, for that being bred by Coppice-sides, and other places where the Nightingals Haunts may be. Now this Bird is a very tender Bird, and yet he breeds the soonest of any Bird we have in *England*, I had a Nest of young Birds ready to fly by the 16th of *March*. This Bird is a very hot mettlesome Creature, for if they be not taken in *January*, or the beginning of *February*, they grow so extraordinary rank, that in a short time they pine away, by reason of the rankness of the Stones, which we find extraordinary swelled when dead. This Bird delights mightily upon gravelly Grounds and Hills that lie to the rising of the Sun, and in Oat Stubbs: This Bird is coupled with his Mate at the beginning of *February*, (and then they part with all their last years Brood) and immediately go to Nest; they build most commonly in your Laiers Grounds, where the Grass hath been pretty rank, and is grown Russet; they build with some Bennet-Grass, or some of the dead Grass of the Field, and make it always under some large Tuffet to shelter them from the Wind and Weather, which commonly at that time of the year is very cold; they feed their Young with a small kind of Worm: I have taken several of their Nests, with a resolution to bring them up, (we not understanding the way of taking them by Net in the Country, as they do here about *London*) but could never do it, (though I have brought up all sorts of other Birds) for this reason, They either had the Cramp, or else turn'd into a Scouring, in less than a weeks time after I had taken them from the Old Ones; several that have been perhaps diligenter than I, have brought them up to feed, but I could

could never hear of any that kept them so long till they sung, and made them the least part of amends for their trouble and charge they had been at. This Bird hath a most curious melodious pleasant Song, carrying of it through with so much sweetness and curiosity, and abundance of variety, that I have had very many that have had almost thirty several sorts of Notes; which if they sing lavish, is a most ravishing Melody, and especially when the Nightingal and they sing both together, each other striving to outvie the other; for I have seen a hot-mettled Wood-Lark to strain his Note so much, that he hath dropt down dead off from the Pearch, in striving to exceed his Antagonist: These Birds are, as I told you before, never bred from the Nest, as I could ever understand. They are taken at three months of the year, in *June*, *July*, and *August*, which we term young Branchers, having not moulted their Nestling-Feathers; I shall shew you here after that, how at this time of the year you may take them, with a Hawk called a Hobby. The next season of taking, is the general flight-time, which is the latter end of *September*, for then they rove from one Country to another, and then the Branchers are all moulted off, and then you can hardly distinguish an Old Bird from a Young One; at this time of the year they take them in great quantities, compared with other times. The next season is the beginning of *January*, till the latter end of *February*, at which time they are all coupled and returned to their Laires or Breeding-places. The Birds that are taken in *June*, *July*, and at the beginning of *August*, are commonly taken with a Hobby adoring; which is this, Get out in a dewy morning,

morning, and go to the side of some Hills, which lie to the rising of the Sun, where they most usually frequent; and having sprung them, observe where they fall, then surround them two or three times with your Hauk upon your Fist, making of him hover when you come indifferent near, and they will lie till you clap a little Net upon them, that you carry upon the end of a Stick; or else if three or four of you go together, take a Net made after the manner of them used for Partridges, when you go with a Setting-Dog only, the Mesh must be smaller; let it be a Lark-Mesh, and then your Hauk to the Larks is like a Setting-Dog to Partridges, so with such a Net you may take all the whole Company at one draught. In like manner you may take your Sky-larks, but they seldom are above two together; but your Wood-Larks keep company with their young ones till flight-time, and then they part.

How to know which are best, the Bird taken in June, July, *or* August, *or at Flight-Time; or in* January *or* February.

THE Birds taken in *June*, *July*, or *August* sing presently, but last but a little time in Song, for they immediately fall to Moulting, which if they withstand, commonly prove very sweet Song-Birds, but not so lavish as those that are taken in Spring; they are commonly very familiar Birds, by reason they are taken young: the Birds that are taken at flight, are brave strong handsome sprightly strait Birds, and do prove well at Spring, if they be well kept all Winter; if not, they will be louse

and

nd come to nothing, as I ſhall ſhew you hereafter, hen I come to the order and feeding of the Bird; ſe uſually do not ſing till after *Chriſtmas*. Thoſe at are taken in *January* and *February*, ſing within wo or three days, or a week at farthelt (if they be ood-conditioned Birds, and will ſoon become tame; ut your fearful wild buckiſh Birds ſeldom prove ood, for upon every turn they bolt againſt the ires of the Cage and bruiſe themſelves, and ſo are to leave off ſinging; therefore if you have a id that is a good Bird and wild, have a Net knit nch Meaſh, and ſo put it in the inſide of the ge, ſowing of it cloſe to the ſides, and ſtrait; ut when he boults or flirts up he may take no rm. I do hold the Birds taken in *January* and *bruary* for the moſt part do prove the beſt, by rea- they are taken in full Stomach, and ſing in a ry ſhort time after, and are more perfect in their ng than thoſe taken at other Seaſons; and the ly way to preſerve him and help him of theſe ſtempers, is firſt to give him freſh Gravel twice thrice a week, and let it be ſifted fine, otherwiſe will bruiſe his Feathers basking in the Sand if u leave gravelly Stones. Secondly, Be ſure to let n have ſuch Meat that is not too ſtale, for if it be uldy and dry, the vertue is almoſt gone out; ſo ſhall never thrive upon it. Thirdly, Have a at care to ſhift his Water three times a week, for inks ſooner than any Birds Water; and the rea- is, That the Bird by throwing about his Meat, me falls into the Water, which cauſes it immedi- y to ſtink, and then it is not at all healthful for to drink of it; if the Bird be very poor, you ſh, at the beginning of Spring, give him every

two

two or three days, a Turf of Three-leaved Graſs, as is uſed to the Sky-Lark, and boyl him a Sheeps-Heart, and mince it ſmall, and mingle it amongſt his Bread, and Egg, and Hemp-ſeeed, which will cauſe him to thrive extraordinarily. To kill his Lice, Take him out of the Cage (if it be not a very good Bird it is not worth while) and ſmoak his Feathers with ſome Tobacco, and give him freſh Gravel, and ſet him in a hot place where the Sun ſhines, and he will immediately rid himſelf of the Vermin, if he hath ſtrength to busk in the Sand; for the Truth is, Theſe Diſeaſes almoſt happen through keeping of them naſty, and not giving of them good Diet: If you would have your Bird ſing very laviſh, feed him all his time of Song with ſome Sheeps-Heart mixed with his Egg, and Bread and Hemp-Seed; and put in his Water two or three ſlices of Liquoriſh, and a little white Sugar-Candy, with two or three Blades of Saffron; do ſo once in a week, and it will cauſe him to be long-winded, and extraordinary laviſh in his Song, carrying it out alſo at a far greater length than at other times; and I hold ſome Wood-Larks not to be inferior to the Nightingal; but the bad keeping, and ill-ordering makes them ſing ſo dully as if they were aſleep, which otherwiſe he is a very chearful Bird; for obſerve them when they ſing in the Fields, with what raviſhing melodious Songs they charm your ears, which if well-ordered, would prove the ſame being kept in a Cage.

Of the Wood-Lark and Nightingal.

I Shall tell you a ſmall Story, I and another Gentleman riding in the Country in an evening hard by a Coppice or Wood-ſide, heard a Nightingal ſing ſo ſweetly, as to my thinking, I never heard the like in all my life, although I have heard a hundred in my time; for the place being in a Valley, and the Coppice on the ſide of it, made all the Notes of the Nightingal ſeem double with the Ecchо; we had not ſtay'd long, but comes a Wood-Lark and lights upon a dead Twig of an Oak, and there they ſang, each out-vying the other; in a ſhort ſpace more, about an hundred paces off, lights another Wood-Lark, diſtant from the firſt, and under him, as near as we could judg, was another Nightingal; theſe four Birds ſang with ſo melodious Harmony, warbling out their pleaſant Notes for above a whole hour, that never any Muſick came in competition with it, to the pleaſing of our Ears; as ſoon as the Wood-larks were gone, the Nightingals, we ſuppoſed, went a little to refreſh Nature, having play'd their parts ſo well, that every Bird in the higheſt degree ſtrove for maſtery, each ſtriving to out-vie the other. My Friend and I having ſtood a full hour to hear theſe Songſters charming our Ears, at our going, I perſwaded him to ſing a merry Catch under the Wood-ſide; which he had no ſooner began, but one of the Nightingals came and bore his Part, and in a minutes time came the other to bear his Part, ſtill keeping of their ſtations, and my Friend and I ſtanding between them, for it is obſerved by all that know the nature of the

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Nightingal, that he will ſuffer no Competitor, if he be able to maſter him, (if not, they will ſometimes rather die than give place) and ſo he ſang three or four merry Songs, and the Birds ſinging with him all the time, and as he raiſed his Notes ſo did they, that he did proteſt, He never enjoyed more pleaſure in ſo ſhort a time in all his life, for the Coppice or Wood being upon the ſide of a Hill, and a Valley in the Bottom, ſo doubled all their Notes, with ſuch a ſweet and pleaſant Eccho, that I am confident none could think the time long in the hearing ſo ſweet and delightful pleaſant Harmony.

The next Song-Bird as I eſteemed beſt, is the Skie-Lark; his place of Breeding and Feeding.

IT is a Bird that is very common in all parts of *England*, ſo is not ſo much regarded and taken notice of; but I do eſteem ſome of them to be very fine pleaſant Song-Birds, for in all Birds of the ſame kind, there is as much difference as between ſkim'd Milk-Cheeſe and Cream, both being Cheeſe; ſo that in the Lark, both Skie-Lark, the one not worth 3 *d.* and the other worth 40 *s.* This Bird is a very hardy Bird, living almoſt upon any Food, if he hath but a green Turff of Three-Leav'd Graſs once in a week. This Bird is much later than the Wood-Lark by almoſt two months, for he ſeldom hath young Ones until the middle of *May*, when the Wood-Lark hath in *March*. This Bird, though in Winter we ſee great flocks, almoſt in every Country throughout *England*, yet we find the fewеſt of their Neſts of any Birds I know that are ſo plentiful; they moſt commonly Build in

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your Corn or thick high Graſs Meadows, and have uſually three or four in a Neſt, to my knowledg, I never found five in all my life-time; they may be taken at a fortnight old, and will be brought up almoſt with any Meat; but if you give them at firſt Sheeps-Heart and Egg chopped together, till they are about three weeks old, or till they come to feed themſelves it will not be amiſs; and when they come to eat alone, give them Oat-Meal, Hemp-Seed, and Bread, mixed together with a little Egg, bruiſe the Hemp-Seed, and they will eat the better: at firſt, Be ſure to chuſe Hemp-Seed that hath a good Kernel and ſweet, otherwiſe you will but deceive your ſelf and the Bird too: Theſe Birds that are ſo young, may be brought up to any thing, as I ſhall ſhew you when I come to treat, one Bird learning another Birds Song; you muſt always obſerve to give theſe Birds Sand at the bottom of the Cage, and let them have a new Turff every week; theſe Larks muſt have no Pearches in their Cages as the Wood-Larks had, for theſe are Field-Larks.

How to order a Wood-Lark when taken.

IN the firſt place you muſt have a Cage with two Pans, one for mix'd Meat, and another for Oat-Meal and whole Hemp-Seed. Firſt, Boyl an Egg hard, then take the Crum of a half-penny Whit-Loaf, and as much Hemp-Seed as the Bread; chop your Egg very ſmall, and crumble your Bread and it together; then bruiſe your Hemp-Seed very ſmall with a Rolling-Pin, or pound it in a Morter; then mingle all together and give it him. You muſt have fine red Gravel at the bottom of your Cage,

and ſhift it every week at fartheſt, otherwiſe he will be ſubject to clog his Feet with his Dung, and will not take half that delight in himſelf, for he delights to bask himſelf in Sand; which I find, if he hath not pretty often he proves louſie, and then ſeldom or never comes to any thing, for they neither are handſome to the Eye, nor give any melody to the Ear, therefore be ſure to keep them clean and neat, and they will anſwer your expectation; you muſt line your Pearch in the Cage with ſome green Bays, or elſe make a Pearch of a Mat, which I have found them ſo very much delight in: If you find him very wild when he is taken, keep him three or four days from Company till he begins to eat his Meat; ſtrew ſome of the Hemp-Seed and Oat-Meal upon the Sand, and ſome of his mixed Meat alſo, for ſometimes they do not find the Pan till they be almoſt famiſhed, and then ſeldom are recovered to their former ſtrength.

How to know a Cock from a Hen.

I May ſay of theſe Birds as of the Nightingal, That ſeveral have pretended to diſtinguiſh the Male from the Female by ſeveral Marks, one by the ſmallneſs of his Head, and another by the lighteſt colour, and another by the ſtreightneſs of his going, and ſome by the White of each ſide of his Head, and others by the largeneſs of the Bird, and ſome by the Pinnion of his Wing; all theſe I have found to be deceitful and fraudulent, which is very great perplexity, if we keep Hens inſtead of Cocks. Now the trueſt way that ever I could find to be certain at all times, is firſt the largeneſs and length of his Call:

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Secondly, The tall walking of the Bird about the Cage. And thirdly, At Evenings the double of his Note, which we call Cudling as if they were going to Rooſt; but if you hear him ſing ſtrong, you cannot be deceived, for Hens will ſing a little; this is chiefly to know thoſe Birds that are taken at flight-time, for I hold it not worth ones time and trouble to keep them round the year, without it be an extraordinary choice Bird; for if a Bird ſings not that is taken in *January* and *February*, within one month after, you may conclude him not worth keeping, or elſe for certain it is a Hen. But our chief aim is, to know thoſe Birds that are taken at the latter end of *September*, for many of them prove excellent Birds, and will begin to ſing after *Chriſtmas*, and hold on until the latter end of *July*.

Concerning the Diſeaſes of the Wood-Lark, and his Cure.

THis Bird is of a curious Song, and a tender Bird to be kept if not rightly ordered; but if well ordered, I have known him been kept ſix or ſeven years, with great pleaſure to the Keeper, having been better and better every year that he hath been kept, and at laſt hath ſung ſuch varieties of Notes, even to admiration of underſtanding Ears, that are able to judg between the goodneſs in Song in one Bird and another. Theſe Birds are very ſubject to the Cramp, giddineſs in the Head, and to be very louſie. Many People admire how they can be cold in a Houſe, when others that are abroad ſuffer much more, and are never ſubject to the Cramp; the reaſon is this, That abroad they have

variety of Motion, as flying and running, which in a Cage they have not; but being confined to a narrow compaſs, have very little or no motion at all, which if the Cage be not often ſhifted with Gravel, the Dung clogs to their Feet, and makes them numb, which cauſes the Cramp; and another thing cauſes it alſo, When they hang them out abroad and it rains, and ſo clogs and wets the Sand, that they ſitting all Night upon it, very often cauſes it ſo; if you hang them out, and the Sun ſhine not to dry it, they ought to have freſh Sand to be given them, and the Pearch lined that they may take a delight to ſit upon it, keeps them very neat, and are not ſubject to clog, and ſings with far more pleaſure, then when he lies at the bottom of the Cage, and is not ſeen ſitting upon the Pearch, alſo cauſes their Song to ſeem more laviſh, for the bottom of the Cage takes off the life of the Song. Next is the giddineſs of the Head, which is occaſioned by feeding upon much Hemp-Seed; which when at firſt you perceive, give him of your Gentles that you fiſh withal, if you can get them; if not, give him ſome Hog-Lice, or ſome Emets and their Eggs, and put in his Water three or four ſlices of Licoriſh, and it will immediately help him. The third Diſeaſe is Louſineſs and Scurf, which cauſes a poorneſs of the Bird.

How to take the Old Skie-Lark ſeveral ways, and the way of ordering when taken.

I Shewed you when I treated of the Wood-Lark, how he was taken with a Hobby and Nets, by which this Lark may be taken alſo, which is not need-

needful to repeat again; but we have ſome more ways for taking of this Skie-Lark, as I ſhall direct you according to my beſt ability. This Lark is taken in dark Nights with a Net called a Trammel, it is a Net of 36 yards long, and ſix yards over, run through with ſix ribs of Pack-thread; which Ribs are at the ends put upon two Poles 16 foot long, made taper at each end, and ſo is carried between two Men half a yard from the Ground, every ſix ſteps touching the Ground to cauſe the Birds to fly up, otherwiſe you may carry the Net over them without diſturbing of them; ſo when you hear them fly againſt the Net, clap the Net down and they are ſafe under it: All in the *Vale* there is hardly a Farmer without one of the Nets; this is a very murdering Net, taking all ſorts of Birds that it comes near, as Partridges, Quales, Wood-Cocks, Snipes, Felfares, and what not, almoſt in every dark Night; I know them that have taken 20 dozen of Larks in a Night. The next way is taking of them with a pair of Day-Nets, and a Glaſs, which indeed is very fine ſport in a clear froſty Morning; theſe Nets are commonly ſeven foot deep, and fifteen foot long, knit with your French Meaſe, and very fine Thread; I think it not convenient to deſcribe them, being I would not ſeem to be tedious; you can hardly ever ſet them right, except you be at firſt ſhewed by an Artiſt at it: Theſe Nets take all ſorts of ſmall Birds that come within the compaſs of the Nets, as Linnets in abundance, and your Bunting-Lark, which hath a ſhort ſort of Bill like to a Bull-Finch. The next way of taking theſe Birds, is by a Bell named a Loo-Bell; with a great Light carried in a Tub; this is a plea-

ſant Sport by reaſon of its Light; but this Bell is carried by one Man, and the Tub and Candle alſo, and the Net by another: This Bell and the Light ſo amazeth them, that they lie for dead; they toſs a little Net over them. They take all ſorts of Fowls and Birds with this Bell, as Partridg, Pheaſant, (and if a very deep Bell, Duck, Mallard, Wood-Cock, and Snipe); This way of birding hath a great conveniency before the Trammel-Net, for with this Bell they go amongſt Buſhes, and by Rivers, and ſhaw-ſides, where commonly your Snipes and Wood-Cocks lie; it is a ſure way for taking a Covey of Partridges. The laſt way of taking your Lark, is in a great Snow; You muſt take of Pack-thread 100 or 200 yards, and at every ſix inches faſten a nooſe made with Horſe-Hair, (two Hairs twiſted together is ſufficient) the more Line the better, for it will reach the greater length, and conſequently have the more Sport; at every twenty yards you muſt have a little ſtick to thruſt into the Ground, and ſo go on till it be all ſet, (I know them that have a thouſand yards); then amongſt the Nooſes ſcatter ſome white Oats from one end to the other, and you will find the Larks flock extraordinary; and when three or four are taken (for you will have them by the Neck, Leg, or very Claw) ſee and take them out, for elſe they may make the others ſhie; and when you are at one end, they will be at the other end a-feeding, ſo you need not fear ſcaring of them away, for it makes them more eager at their Food; if it be after Chriſtmaſs before the Snow fall, thoſe Birds ſeldom or never prove good for ſinging; but take them that you intend to keep for ſinging in *Octob.* or *Nov.* and then they

they will ſing a little after Chriſtmaſs; chuſe out the ſtreighteſt, largeſt, and loftieſt Bird, and he that hath moſt white in his Tail, for theſe are the uſual Marks for a Cock: You muſt provide him a Cage as large as two of the Wood-Lark Cages, and let there be a Diſh in the middle of the Cage, or at one end, according to your fancy, and put always ſome Water in when you place the Turf in it, for the Water cauſeth the Turf to grow in the Cage; if you find him very wild and buckiſh, tie his Wings for two or three weeks, till he is become both acquainted and tame alſo; then when you perceive him pretty orderly, untie his Wings, ſtill letting him hang in the ſame place he did. You muſt feed this old Bird with Hemp-Seed, Bread, and a few white Oats, for he takes great delight to husk the Oats; and when he begins to ſing, once in a week you may give him a hard Egg, or ſhred him a little boiled Mutton, or Veal, or Sheeps-Heart. You muſt obſerve in this Bird, as in all others, That you give no Salt Meat, nor no Bread that is any thing Salt.

Concerning the Throſtle, and the ſeveral kinds.

THere be five ſorts or kinds of Throſtles, according as I have obſerved. The firſt ſort, and largeſt of them, is your Miſtle-Throſtle, which is far bigger and larger than of the other ſorts, and his Food is far different from all the other kinds, and very few to be ſeen; he is the beautifulleſt Bird of all the five, but ſings the leaſt, except he always breeds near where ſtore of Miſtletoe is, and if he can poſſible, in a very thick place, or in ſome

Pit, for he is a very melancholy ſort of Bird; he makes as large a Neſt as a Jay, and lays as big an Egg; He builds commonly with rotten Twigs the out-ſide of his Neſt, and the in-ſide is dead Graſs, Hey, or Moſs that he pulls from Trees, (this Bird delights mightily in old Orchards, where commonly is much Feed upon the Apple-Trees) ſhe ſeldom lays above five Eggs, but four moſt commonly; ſhe breeds but twice a year, and hath three young ones, never above four as I could find; ſhe feeds all her young ones with the Berries of the Miſſeltoe, and nothing elſe as ever I could perceive, having diligently watched them two or three hours together.

Many Writers are of opinion, That this Bird is an excellent Remedy againſt Convulſions and Falling-Sickneſs; for this reaſon, That the Miſſeltoe is ſo good (and he continually feeding upon nothing elſe) a Remedy againſtit, and is an approved excellent Medicine: The way of uſing it is, To kill him, and dry him to a Pouder, and take the quantity of a peny-weight every morning, in ſix ſpoonfuls of the diſtilled Water of Miſſetoe-Berries, or Black-Cherry Water, faſting an hour after; and they ſay one Bird taking will certainly effect the Cure; I never did experiment the truth of it, but in my opinion it ſtands to a great deal of reaſon: It's no chargeable Medicine, only finding of a Neſt, or ſhooting an old Bird, and make tryal.

The young Birds taken about fourteen days old, are eaſie to be brought up, being a very hardy Bird; but I think it will not anſwer your expectation if you breed him for Song, for he hath a confuſed rambling Song, and not laviſh neither; the young

young ones are fed with Bread and Hemp-Seed, and a little Sheeps-Heart between whiles; it's a handſom Bird for a voletie, and will breed like Pigeons if rightly ordered.

The next is your Felfare or Northern Throſtle, which comes to us after *Michaelmaſs*, and tarries here all the Winter, and departs the firſt of *March*; Their Feed with us is Hips and Haws in hard Weather, and in open Weather Worms and young Graſs, lieing altogether upon Meadow or Paſture-Grounds; they come in very great numbers, and go away alſo in Flocks. They breed upon certain Rocks near the Sea-ſide, in *Scotland*, where they are in abundance, and have Young three or four times every year; I have taken them in great numbers at Winter with your Bird-Lime, as I have before directed you in the laſt Addition; I have for curioſity kept one in a Cage to ſee if they had any Song, but I found it not worth my labour, for when Spring came, he made nothing but a chattering, ſo that I found him far better for a Spit than a Cage, they being excellent Meat when they are very Fat, which is commonly in hard Weather; in open Weather they are very bitter, and not worth eating.

The next is your Wind-Throſtle, which comes along with this Felfare or Northern-Throſtle, but is much ſmaller, with a dark red under his Wing; This Bird breeds in Woods and Shawes, as your Song-Throſtles in *Scotland*, and hath an indifferent Song, far exceeding the two former: In *February*, in fine Weather, the Sun ſhining, they will get very many together upon a Tree, and ſing two or three hours; ſome do fancy their Song, by reaſon

it

it is not harſh, but a pretty kind of ſweet chattering Note like unto the Swallow, only a little louder. I think them not worth ones pains to keep them, for they will not ſing above three months, and ſo give off.

The next is the Wood-Song Throſtle, which is a very rare Song-Bird; firſt, For the great variety of his Notes; and ſecondly, For the laviſhneſs in his Song; this, as in all other Birds, one far exceeding another in Song, though Birds of the ſame kind. Thirdly, He continues longer than any Bird in Song, continuing at leaſt nine months in a year. This Bird is ſo well known to moſt Country-men, that it needs no Deſcription; He is very good for Man's Food, but I never could endure to kill them, by reaſon they are ſo fine Song-Birds. The Hen makes her Neſt in the beginning of *March* (which many times is both Froſt and Snow, and very hard Weather) upon the ſtump of an old Tree, or ſide of the Coppice by a Ditch, according as ſhe finds food and ſtuff moſt convenient for her Building, and Food for her young ones. She maketh her Neſt of Moſs that grows upon old ſtumps of Trees that are in the Woods; ſhe faſhions her Neſt round and deep with Moſs, and ſome dry Graſs; when ſhe hath compleated the firſt part, ſhe wonderfully, and after a moſt exact and cunning way, daubs the in-ſide with a ſort of Earth called your Loam, that the poor People in the Country Plaiſter their Walls with; ſhe doth it ſo ſmooth and even, and all with her Bill, that it goes beyond the Art of Man to perform with any Tools; and the Bird commonly leaves a Hole in the middle of the bottom of her Neſt, which I ſuppoſe may be to this end, That it may

may not be drowned upon any ſudden violent Showers, or long continuance of Rain, which by this Hole at the bottom, ſhe preſerves both her Eggs and Young Ones from being killed and drowned, which if not ſo provided, might prove to the deſtruction of both: They breed commonly three times in a year, if they meet with no diſturbance or caſualties by the way; if the Weather be fine and warm, they go very ſoon to Neſt; the firſt commonly is hatched in *April*, and now and then at the latter end of *March*, the ſecond in *May*, and the third in *June*; but the firſt Birds prove moſt uſually the beſt and ſtouteſt Birds. The Throſtle taken in the Neſt, may be at fourteen days old, and muſt be kept pretty warm and neat, not ſuffering them to ſit upon their Dung if it fall into the Neſt, but ſo contrive it, that they may dung over the Neſt whilſt they are young and ſmall; you muſt feed them with raw Meat, and ſome Bread mixed and chopped together with ſome bruiſed Hemp-Seed, wet your Bread and mix it with your Meat: When they begin to be well-feathered, put them in a large Cage, and put ſome dry Moſs at the bottom, and let them have two or three Pearches, that ſo they may ſit or lie at their pleaſure, for you muſt know that the Throſtle, if not clean kept, is ſubject to the Cramp, and will neither ſing nor take pleaſure in himſelf: you may by degrees give him no Heart at all, for Bread and Hemp-Seed is as good Meat for him, as the beſt Sheeps-Heart and Egg is for a Nightingal: be ſure to give him freſh Water twice in a week, that ſo he may bath himſelf and prune himſelf, otherwiſe he will not thrive; take

that

that Neſt where you find the old Bird to ſing well, for he always ſings near the Neſt.

The fifth is your Heath-Throſtle, which is the ſmalleſt of three ſorts that we have in *England*, you ſhall know him by his dark Breaſt; ſome Countreys call them Meviſſes, for they differ in their Colour, Song, and way of Breeding. This Bird, in my Opinion, far exceeds that which we generally call the Song-Throſtle, being far ſweeter in his Notes than the other, and a neater Bird in his Plume. The Hen builds by the Heath-ſide, either in a Frus-buſh, or by a Ditch-ſide in the ſtump of an old Haw-Thorn, and ſeldom haunts the Woods and Shawes as the other doth. This Bird's Neſt is more difficult to be found than the other, and I believe ten Neſts of the other for one of this. She builds with a long green Ground-Moſs, and makes her Neſt much deeper than the former and leſs, and begins not to breed till the middle of *April*, and breeds but twice in a year, and is a fine tame neat Bird, and will ſing nine months in the year, if well fed, and kept clean, both from Dung and Vermin. You muſt breed up theſe young ones after the ſame manner that the other was ordered in all things.

How

How to know a Cock-Throſtle from a Hen, in Young and Old.

THis is a very difficult Bird to know both when Young and Old; I ſhall give you the Opinion and Judgment of ſeveral others, and my own at laſt: The ancient Rule amongſt Country-People, was, to chuſe the top-Bird of the Neſt, as they term it, that is the largeſt and moſt feathered ſtouteſt Bird, which commonly lies uppermoſt, for they ſay it is the Nature of the Cock, from the very Neſt, to get on top of the Hens Back. Another chuſes him to be the Male Bird that hath the fulleſt Eye, and moſt Speckles upon his Breaſt, and deeper down to his Belly. A third makes choice of a Cock, for the largeneſs of his Spots, and darkeſt, and a white Gullet, with two black ſtreaks on each ſide. Another chuſes him by the Pinion of his Wing, if it hath a very dark black that goes a-croſs it. Now at laſt I ſhall give you my own Judgment; Firſt, I take notice of his Gullet to be very white, with black Streaks on each ſide; and then to have his Spots upon his Breaſt to be large and black, and the colour of his Head to be of a light ſhining brown, with black ſtreaks under each Eye, and upon the Pinion of the Wing; theſe are the Marks I moſt commonly chuſe them by: But if you will be ſure not to fail, obſerve my Counſel; Bring up a whole Neſt, and in a ſhort time after they feed themſelves, you will find them Record to themſelves. ☞ Note, The Hens will Record as well as the Cocks, but it is with ſhort catches and jerks, and not continues it long; but the Cock is full, and you will

will perceive his Gullet to extend it ſelf much more than the others, and to ſing much oftner than the Hen; when you have obſerved them two or three times, take him out of the Cage and mark him, and put him in again; then obſerve again, and ſee if it be the ſame Bird you marked, and obſerving this way you ſhall never fail; but in the other ſometimes you may, for every Country alters the Plumes of the Birds, which muſt of neceſſity cauſe your Judgment and Marks to err.

Of the King of Birds, or the little King, called the Robin Red-Breaſt.

THe next, in my opinion, for a Song-Bird, is the little Robin Red-Breaſt; he ſingeth very ſweetly, and I have heard many to eſteem him little inferior to the Nightingal: I muſt tell you, That were he as hard to be had as the Nightingal, I do not know but that he might have as great an eſteem as him; but plenty of any Bird, or of any thing elſe, makes them not ſet by nor valued, though never ſo good in its Kind. This Bird is known to every little Boy, by reaſon they are ſeen at Winter upon the Tops and Roofs of Houſes, and upon all ſorts of old Ruins, on that ſide moſt commonly that the Sun riſeth and ſhineth in the morning, or under ſome Covert, where the Cold and Wind may not pinch him, for he is but a tender Bird, and hath moſt uſually his Cage lined and made after the form of a Nightingal-Cage; they breed very early in the Spring, and commonly three times in a year, in *April*, *May*, and *June*: They make their Neſt with a dry greeniſh Moſs, and quilt it within with

a little Wood and Hair; they ſeldom have above five young ones, and not under four: They build in ſome old Hay-Houſe, or Barn, or Reek of Hey or Corn; and when they are about ten days old, you may take them from the old ones, and keep them in a little Basket or Box; if you let them tarry too long in the Neſt, they will be ſullen, and ſo conſequently much more trouble, and not ſo fit to be brought up under another Bird, that whiſtled to; you muſt feed them with Sheep-Heart and Egg minced ſmall, in all points as you feed the Nightingals, and but a little at once, and pretty often, by reaſon of his bad digeſtion, for if you give him too much at a time, he is very apt to throw it up again, which is a ſign that he is not long-lived. Be ſure he lie warm, and eſpecially in the Night: When you find them begin to be ſtrong, you may Cage them, and let them have ſome Moſs at the bottom of the Cage and ſtand warm; put the Meat in a Pan or Box, both of the Sheeps-Heart and Egg, and the Paſte that you were formerly directed to make; and let him alſo have ſome of the Wood-Larks mixed Meat by them, for thoſe I brought up with Sheeps-Heart and Egg, when they came to feed themſelves, would rather eat the Paſte and Wood-Larks Meat, than the Sheeps-Heart and Egg; you may give him, which you will, according to your conveniency; every Boy knows almoſt how to take a Robin with a Pit-Fall; but with a Trap-Cage and a Meal-Worm you may take a dozen in a day: And if you hear one Bird to excel another, take the Bird you have moſt mind to, and Cage him, and he will ſing in a ſhort time, provided he be not an old Bird. If you take a Bird, and do not hear

him

him ſing, by this Mark you ſhall know whether he be a Cock or Hen; if a Cock, his Breaſt will be of a darker red, a greater matter than the Hen, and his red will go up farther upon the Head.

What Diſeaſes are ſubject to the Robin Red-Breaſt, and how to Cure them.

FIrſt, He is very ſubject to the Cramp, and giddineſs of the Head, which makes him many times fall off the Pearch upon his Back, and then is preſent death, without ſome help be ſpeedily uſed for him. The beſt Remedy to prevent him from having the Cramp, is, To keep him warm and clean in his Cage, that his Feet be not clogged, which many times do eat the Joints off his Feet, with the Dung being bound on ſo faſt, that it makes his Feet and Nails to rot off, which takes off the Life and Spirit of the Bird; if you find him droop, and is ſickiſh, give him three or four Meal-Worms and Spiders, and it will mightily refreſh him: but for the giddineſs in the Head, give him ſix or ſeven Ear-Wigs in a week, and he ſhall never be troubled with it, which is very ſubject to your Robins above all other Birds, except the Bull-finch: If you find he hath little appetite to eat, give him now and then ſix or ſeven Hog-Lice, which you may find in any piece of old rotten Wood: be ſure he never wants Water that is freſh two or three times a week. And to make him chearful and long-winded, give him once in a week, in his Water, a blade or two of Saffron, and a ſlice of Licoriſh, which will advantage his Song or Whiſtling very much.

Concerning

Concerning the Jenny-Wren.

I Hold the little Creature to be a curious fine Song-Bird, ſo not unworthy to be taken notice of amongſt the little Birds of the Cage: He is of a fine chearful Nature, and ſingeth ſweetly and delightſomly, none exceeding him for the nature of the Song he ſings; he is a pretty ſpeckled coloured Bird, very pleaſing to the ſight, and when he ſings, cocks up his Tayl, and throws out his Notes with ſuch pleaſure and chearfulneſs, that for his bigneſs none exceeds him. This Bird breeds twice a year, firſt, About the latter end of *April*, and makes her Neſt with dry Moſs and Leaves, and doth it ſo artificially, that it is a very hard matter to diſcover it, being it is amongſt Shrubs or Hedges where Ivy grows very thick; they will build in old Hovels and Barns, but them are thoſe that are not uſed to the Hedges; they cloſe their Neſt round, leaving but one little Hole to go in and out at; ſhe lays abundance of Eggs, I have had eighteen out of one Neſt, which would ſeem very ſtrange, if it were not a thing ſo generally common; I have had ſixteen young ones out of a Neſt: It's to admiration how ſo ſmall a little-bodied Bird can cover ſo great a company of Eggs; I am perſwaded the Cock and Hen ſits both together; but when they have hatched, to feed ſo great a company and not to miſs one Bird, and in the dark alſo, 'tis a very curious thing to conſider. Their ſecond time of breeding is in the middle of *June*, for by that time the other Neſt will be brought up and ſhift for themſelves; but if you intend to keep any of them, take them

out at twelve or fourteen days old from the Neſt: You ſhall give them Sheeps-Heart and Egg minced very ſmall, taking away the Fat and the Sinews, or elſe of Calves or Heifers-Heart. Obſerve in all Meat-Birds, to cleanſe the Meat or Heart of all the Fat and Sinews; and if it be Beef, let it be well beaten, and ſhred very ſmall, becauſe of digeſtion. You ſhall feed them in their Neſt very often in a day, giving them one or two morſels at a time and no more, leſt they ſhould caſt it up again, by receiving more than they can bear or digeſt, and ſo die: You muſt feed them with a little Stick, and take up the Meat at the end about the bigneſs of a white Pea; when you perceive them to pick it from the Stick themſelves, then put them into a Cage, and having a Pan or two, put ſome of the ſame Meat in it, and about the ſides of the Cage alſo to entice her to eat; notwithſtanding you muſt feed them five or ſix times in a day for better ſecurity, leſt they ſhould neglect themſelves and die, when all your trouble is almoſt paſt. After they have found the way to feed alone, give them by degrees of your Paſte now and then, and if you perceive them to eat heartily, and like it very well, you may forbear giving them any more Heart, when you find they are accuſtomed to eat the Paſte with delight. Furthermore, You muſt, once in two or three days, give them a Spider or two. If you have a deſire he ſhould learn to whiſtle Tunes, take the pains to teach him and he will anſwer your expectation, for it is a Bird that is eaſily taught. If they be fed only with Paſte, they will live longer than if they have Sheeps-heart

Hem

How to know the Cocks from the Hens.

WHen you have got a whole Neſt, obſerve which are browneſt Birds, and thoſe which are largeſt, and mark them: And to be ſure that they are what you expect them to be, obſerve their Recording, for ſuch of them that ſhall record to themſelves in the Neſt before they can feed themſelves; and obſerve, if their Throats grow big as they Record, they are certainly Cocks, this is the ſureſt way to know them: When they can feed themſelves, both Hens and Cocks will Record.

Concerning the Tit-Lark.

THis Bird is very much fancied amongſt many Men for his whisking, turring, and chewing, ſinging moſt like the Canary-Bird of any Bird whatſoever; but I have not ſo great a fancy for him, by reaſon he is ſo very ſhort in his Song, and hath no variety with it. This Bird is a Companion of the Nightingal, for he appears at that time of the year when the Nightingal comes, which is the beginning of *April*, and leaves us the third or fourth of *September*; they are fed after the ſame manner as the Nightingal when they are firſt taken. There is no taking of the old Ones but with a Net, ſuch as you take all other ſmall Birds; you muſt cram him as you did the Nightingal, for he will not feed himſelf, by reaſon he always feeds upon live Meat in the Field, ſo he is not acquainted with the Meat that we offer him; but when he will feed of himſelf, he will eat your Wood-Larks Meat, or almoſt

any other Meat. This Bird is much of the nature of the Nightingal, for he grows exceeding fat, even as the Nightingal doth a little before his going away, and ſo continues for ſome time; but they will not faſt as the Nightingal doth, but eats his Meat though he be never ſo fat.

This Bird makes her Neſt about the latter end of *April*, and hath young by the middle of *May*; ſhe always breeds in the Ground by ſome Pond-ſide, or Ditch-ſide, or in a Garden in high Graſs; ſhe makes her Neſt of dead-Graſs, and a few ſmall Roots, and commonly lays ſix Eggs, or five at leaſt, and feeds her young ones with Caterpillars and Flies; they are Birds very eaſily brought up, being they are hardy, and are not ſubject to Colds and Cramps as other Birds are, but live long if preſerved with care. If you breed this Bird up young and cleanly, he is a very pretty tame ſinging-Bird, and to a great many hath a very pleaſing Song, according to the old Proverb, *Short and ſweet.*

Concerning the Red-Start.

THis Bird is of a very dogged ſullen temper, for I know the Nature of him, that when I have declared, you will judg the ſame by his effects; for if taken old, and not out of the Neſt, he is very hard to be tamed; he will be ſo vexed ſometimes, as is a wonderful thing, almoſt incredible, if I had not tryed it my ſelf; for being taken in a Cage, and ordered as we formerly directed you in the Nightingal, he hath been ſo dogged, that in ten days time he would never look towards the Meat, and when he fed himſelf, hath been a whole month without

without ſinging, nay, I have known them never ſing at all, till they were brought to their accuſtomed place. This Bird is a fore-runner of the Nightingal, and comes four or five days before we generally hear him, and is of a chearful temper, and hath a very pretty melodious kind of Whiſtling-Song. The Cock is very fair and beautifully coloured, and is exceeding pleaſant to the Eye. She breeds three times in a year, the latter end of *April*, in *May*, and towards the latter end of *June*; this is their ordinary courſe without ſome-body ſpoil or touch their Eggs, and then they may come ſooner or later. They build moſt uſually in holes of hollow Trees, or under Houſe-Eves, and make their Neſt with all ſorts of things, as dry Graſs, ſmall Roots of Herbs and Leaves, Horſe-Hair and Wool, according as the place affords them. Of all Birds that I know, this is one of the ſhieſt, for if ſhe perceive you to mind her when ſhe is Building, ſhe will forſake it, and if you touch an Egg, ſhe never comes to her Neſt more; for you can very hardly go to it, but ſhe will immediately ſpie you, and if ſhe chance to have young ones, ſhe will either ſtarve them, or break their Necks, with throwing them out of the Neſt; for I can ſpeak it of my own knowledg, That I having found a Neſt in a hole of a hollow Tree, took one out of the Neſt to ſee how fledg'd they were, and immediately put it in again; and having occaſion to come that way the next morning, I found them all dead under the Tree, which made me admire; but ſince I have tryed two or three more, and they are all of one nature for doggedneſs; but if you bring them up young, they alter their Nature and become very

tame and pleaſant to their Keeper. You muſt take them out of the Neſt about ten days old, for if you let them be too long in the Neſt, they are apt to learn ſome of the old Birds temper, and be very ſullen. Theſe Birds are fed with Sheeps-Heart and Egg minced and chopped very ſmall, and given at the end of a Stick, when they open their Mouths, about the quantity of three white Peas; for if you clog their Stomachs too much, they will preſently caſt their Meat, and in a ſhort time die. When you perceive him to eat off the Meat from the Stick, Cage them up, and put their Meat in a Pan, and about the ſides of the Cage; not ceaſing, though he feeds of himſelf, to give him three or four times a day a bit or two, for he will hardly eat his fill for the firſt three or four days he begins to feed alone; but when you have accuſtomed him to eat five or ſix days without feeding, give him ſome of the Nightingals Paſte, and you will find him very much delight in it: You may keep him in what Cage you pleaſe, only let him be warm in Winter, and he will ſing in the Night as well as in the Day. There is few People know this Bird when they ſee him: He is a very lovely Bird to the Eye, and very pleaſant to the Ear.

Concerning

Concerning the Hedg-Sparrow.

THis is a pretty Song-Bird, and ſingeth very early in the Spring, though little taken notice of; he hath a very pleaſant Song, with a great deal of variety; old or young become tame very quickly, and will ſing in a ſhort ſpace after they are taken; if you take them in the latter end of *January*, or beginning of *February*: They feed upon Wood-Larks Meat, or any thing elſe you will give them. They build their Neſts in a White-Thorn or private Hedg, and make it of dead Graſs and fine Moſs, and Leaves, with a little Wool: She lays an Egg much different from other Birds, being of a very fine blew colour, and hath commonly five Eggs, and brings up her young ones with all ſorts of Food ſhe can get. This is a very tractable Bird, and will take any Birds Song almoſt if taken young out of the Neſt. This Bird I verily believe would be taught to whiſtle and ſpeak; but more of this when I come to ſpeak of Whiſtling-Birds in their order.

Concerning the Solitary-Sparrow.

THis Bird is naturally given to Melancholy; he loveth ſolitary and by-places, and from thence at firſt came his name; they do much delight to live by old decayed and uninhabited places, as being far removed from the company of all ſorts of Birds. She is very jealous, both of her Eggs and young Ones; ſhe maketh her Neſt in Holes, and chiefly of old Banks, or in the holes of old hollow Trees:

ſhe builds with any Materials which lies next to her Habitation, and moſt nigh and convenient to her Neſt; for ſhe is a very idle Bird, and now and then doth not lay together ſtuff enough to keep her young warm. She breeds three times a year, in *April*, *May*, and *June*, and hath her young at no certainty. If you will bring up any young, chuſe out the faireſt of the Neſt, and biggeſt alſo, and let them be pretty well covered with Feathers before you take them out, for they are not given to be ſullen, without you let them alone ſo long till they are juſt ready to fly; and if they will not open their Bills, take them and open them, and give them the quantity of two grey Peas at three or four times, and in a ſhort time you will perceive them to eat of themſelves; you may put in their Pan or Trough ſome of the Sheeps-Heart or Egg as you feed the young ones withal; notwithſtanding they do feed themſelves, put two or three pieces in their Mouths, until ſuch time that you perceive them to eat enough to ſatisfie themſelves. Cage them as ſoon as ever you perceive them to eat off from the ſtick, and put ſome fine dry Moſs at the bottom of the Cage, keeping them as neat and as clean as poſſibly you can; for if you do not, they will become lame, and die in a ſhort time, wherefore obſerve theſe directions until they be moulted; and then keep Sand at the bottom of the Cage in the Summer, and Moſs or Hey all Winter, feeding them with Sheeps-Heart and Egg minced ſmall, and now and then ſome Nightingals Paſte; and if you pleaſe, a little Wood-Larks Meat alſo.

Concerning

Concerning the Black-Bird.

VEry many may wonder why I ſhould preſerve this Bird till laſt; my reaſon is, Becauſe I value him the worſt of all the ſinging Birds I have treated of; and as leaſt is kept of Nightingals, which is the beſt Song-Bird in the World, ſo I think this may be accounted the worſt of thoſe that are termed ſinging Birds, and more kept of them than any Birds I know; the Country-Man and Woman being melancholy without their brave golden-beaked Black-Bird, for your Country-People value no Bird in compariſon of him, and all is for being loud and coarſe in his Song, as they are clowniſh in their Speech and Conditions. This Bird is known to every one, and is better to be eaten than kept, and is much ſweeter to the Palat being dead and well-roaſted, than to the Ear when they are living, for they are delicate Meat if very fat. She maketh her Neſt many times when the Woods are full of Snow, which happeneth very often in the beginning of *March*. She builds her Neſt upon old ſtumps of Trees, by Ditch-ſides or in a thick Hedg, they are at no certainty like other Birds; She makes the out-ſides of her Neſt with dry Graſs and Moſs, and little dry Sticks and Roots of Trees, and daubs all the inſide of the Neſt with a kind of Clay-Earth, faſhioning it ſo round, and forms it ſo handſome and ſmooth that Man cannot mend it; they breed three or four times a year, according as they loſe their Neſt, for if their Neſts be taken away they breed the ſooner. The young Black-Birds are brought up almoſt with any Meat whatſoever, they

feeding

ſeeding of them with Curds and Bran, or brown-Bread, or skim'd-Cheeſe in the Country; not feeding them as we do here, with good Sheeps-Heart, or hard Egg, and White-Bread and Milk. This Bird ſings about three months in the year, or four at moſt, therefore I eſteemed him not worth any thing for his Song; but if he be learned to Whiſtle, he is of ſome value; but in my mind his Whiſtle is very coarſe, though it be very loud; ſo he is fit only for a large Inn, and not for a Ladies Chamber; ſo this Bird brings up the rear of all your ſoft-beaked ſinging-Birds that we have common in *England*. But in every Country there is variety, according to the nature of the place, which if I thought might be deſired, I would give a deſcription of moſt ſinging-Birds in the World.

Now I have done with all the ſoft-beaked Birds, I ſhall uſe my endeavour to give you an account of all the hard-beaked Birds which feed upon Seeds, and are moſt plentiful with us here in England; *the firſt I ſhall begin withal is, the Bird called the Canary-Bird, becauſe the Original of that Bird came from thence, (I hold this to be the beſt Song-Bird); But now with induſtry they breed them very plentifully in* Germany, *and in* Italy *alſo; and they have bred ſome few here in* England, *though as yet not any thing to the purpoſe as they do in other Countries. I ſhall in order, to my beſt underſtanding, give you what knowledg I have concerning him, and the beſt way to breed and preſerve them when bred; with the true way of ordering the young ones.*

Concerning

Concerning the Canary-Bird.

THis Bird we had formerly brought over from the *Canaries* and no-where elſe, and ſo is generally known by that name; but of late years we have had abundance of their kind come out of *Germany*, ſo we call them by the name of the Country, *German-Birds*; but I believe the firſt Original were brought from the *Canary-Iſlands*. The Birds brought from the *Canaries* are not ſo much in eſteem with us as formerly, for the Birds brought out of *Germany* far excel them in handſomneſs and Songs, the *German*-Birds having very many fine Jerks and Notes of the Nightingals, which in its place I ſhall declare how they came to have. Many Country-People cannot diſtinguiſh a Canary from one of our common Green-Birds; but if they would diligently obſerve how the paſſages of his Throat heaves when he is ſinging, they might quickly diſtinguiſh him from any other Bird, let him be of any manner of colour; and beſides, he is luſtier by much, and hath a longer Tail. Note, Thoſe Canaries that have the motion of turning their Heads backward, are ſeldom or never good. The Nature of the Canary is quite contrary to other Birds, for as others are ſubject to be fat they never are, (I mean the Cocks) for the great mettle of the Bird, and his laviſh ſinging, will hardly ſuffer him to maintain fleſh upon his back, much leſs fat.

How

How to chuſe a Canary-Bird, and to know when he hath good Song.

IN the firſt place let him be a long Bird, ſtanding ſtreight, and not crouching, but ſpritely like unto a Sparrow-Hauk, ſtanding with life and boldneſs, and not ſubject to be fearful; I would adviſe all People that intend to buy your Canary-Iſland Birds, or German-Canaries, ſo lately called, firſt to hear them ſing, and then they ſhall be ſure not to be cozened one way, to buy Hens for Cocks. And then alſo in the ſecond place, they ſhall pleaſe their Ears, for one fancies a ſweet Song-Bird, and another a very laviſh Bird if he be not ſweet; and all phanſie, I think, a long Song-Bird, and you chuſe what pleaſes you beſt, and I'le aſſure you one ſhilling is very ill-ſaved, to buy them as they run out of the Store-Cage, for if you have but one Hen in twelve, your ſhilling in a Bird is quickly loſt; and ten to one but ſome of the Cocks too hath little or no Song to be taken notice of, therefore be adviſed to hear him in a ſingle Cage, that you may be able to judg ſomething of his Song before you part with your Mony. Now moſt are of Opinion, that your Canary that hath moſt variety of Notes, and is the longeſt Song-Bird, is the beſt; but Mens Opinions vary as the Birds Songs.

Firſt, Some approve of your Canary, that whisk and chew like unto your Tit-Lark, by reaſon it is a ſpritely Note.

A ſecond is for a Canary that begins like unto a Skie-Lark, and ſo continues his Song much after the rate

rate of his ſinging, having a long Note and ſweet but I think not much variety in it.

A third approves of the Canary that begins the Skie-Lark, and runs upon the Notes of the Nightingals Song; which I do think, if he doth it well, is one of the pleaſanteſt Birds in the World.

A fourth likes a Bird that hath a loud laviſh Note, not at all reſpecting either variety or length, ſo he makes but a noiſe in his ears.

So ſome phanſie the way of ſinging after the Tit-Lark, ſome after the Skie-Lark, and almoſt all after the Nightingal, and few or none after the way of the Chaff-Finch.

How to know if your Canary-Bird be in health or not when you buy him.

WHen you take him out of the Store-Cage, put him in another Cage ſingle, and let the Cage be very clean, that ſo you may ſee his Dung; if he ſtands up boldly without crouching, and have no ſigns of ſhrinking in his Feathers, and his Eyes look chearful and not drouſie, and that he is not ſubject to clap his Head under his Wing, theſe are good ſigns, and yet he may be an unhealthy Bird ſtill; but the greateſt matter is, to obſerve his Dunging, if he bolts his Tail like a Nightingal after he hath dunged, it is a great ſign he is not in perfect health, though he may ſing at preſent and look pretty brisk, aſſure your ſelf it will not be long before he be ſick. The next is, if he dung very thin like Water, with no thickening, he is not right. And laſt of all, if he dung with a ſlimy white, and no blackneſs in it, it is a dangerous ſign that Death

is

is approaching, and he will not continue long with you. But when in perfect health, his Dung lies round and hard, with a fine white on the out-side, and dark within, and will quickly be dry; and the larger the Birds Dung is, I hold it the better, so it be long, round, and hard. A Seed-Bird very seldom dungs too hard, except very young.

Concerning the ordering of Canary-Birds when they begin to build, or them they intend for breeding.

IN the first place, You must make a convenient Cage, or else prepare a Room that may be fit for such a business; you must be sure to let it have an out-let towards the rising of the Sun, where you must have a piece of Wire, that they may have egress and regress at their pleasure: When you have prepared a convenient Room, then set up in the corners of it some Brooms, either Heath or Frail, opening them in the middle; if the Room be pretty high, you may set two or three Brooms under one another; but then you must set Partitions with Boards over the top of every Broom, otherwise they will dung upon one anothers Heads; and also they will not suffer to see one another so near each others Nest, for the Cock or Hen will be apt to fly upon a Hen that is not matched to them, when they see them just under their Nest, which many times causes the spoiling of their Eggs and Young Ones. In the next place, you must cause something to be made so convenient, and of such a bigness, that may hold Meat for some considerable time, that you may not be disturbing of them continually, and a

conve-

convenient Veſſel for Water alſo; let your place where you intend to put your Seeds, be ſo ordered, that it may hang out of the reach of the Mice, for they will deſtroy all the Canary-Seeds, and ſo conſequently may ſtarve your Canary-Birds. You muſt likewiſe prepare ſome ſtuff to build withal of ſeveral ſorts of things, as Cotton-Wool, ſmall dead Graſs, your Elks-Hair, and your long ſort of Moſs that grows along upon the Ground by your Ditch-ſides, or in the Woods; you muſt dry it before you put them together, then mingle them all, and put them up into a little Net like unto a Cabbage-Net, hanging of it ſo that they may with conveniency pull it out. You muſt ſet Pearches all about your Room, and if big enough, ſet a Tree in the middle of it, that ſo they may take the more pleaſure. You muſt proportion your Birds according to the bigneſs of your Room, rather let it be under-ſtocked than over, for they are Birds that love their liberty.

What things are moſt needful when they begin to breed.

IN the firſt place, when you perceive them begin to build and carry ſtuff, give them once a day, or in two days at leaſt, a little Greens, and ſome Loaf-Sugar, for that will cauſe a ſlipperineſs in the Body, that ſo the Eggs may come forth without injuring the Birds, for many times the Bird dies in laying her firſt Egg, which is a great loſs to the breeder ſeveral ways: As firſt, to the loſs of his firſt breed; then next, to the unpairing of the Cock, to which you ſhould put in another Hen, whether he will pair or no; ſo that Cock would be far better

taken

taken out, than ſuffered to tarry in your Breeding-Place, eſpecially if it be a ſmall place; but with pairs in a large place he cannot do that injury; and it will be very hard to diſtinguiſh which Hens Cock that dyed, and as hard to take him in a large place, without doing more injury than the Bird comes to; therefore let him reſt till the end of the year, when you draw them out to part them. If you have but two or three pair together, it will be the beſt way to take him out and match him with another Hen, and then put him in again: And alſo when you find that they have built their Neſts, you may take away the Nets that have their breeding-ſtuff in them, for they will be ſubject to build upon their Eggs with new ſtuff, if they do not lay preſently.

They do breed moſt uſually three times in a year, begin in *April*, and breed *May* and *June*, and ſometimes in *Auguſt*, which is not very uſual neither here nor in *Germany*.

How they breed them in Germany.

I Shall ſhew you every thing exactly how they breed them in *Germany*, according to the beſt information that I have received of thoſe that have ſeen them and bred them alſo. In the firſt place, Prepare a large Room, and build it in the likeneſs of a Barn, being much longer than broad; and at each end there is a ſquare place, and ſeveral holes at each end to go into thoſe ſquare places; in thoſe Out-lets they plant ſeveral ſorts of fine Trees, which grow pretty thick, (for they will take much delight both to ſing and breed in them); and at the bottom of

of the place they ſtrew it with a fine ſort of Sand, with which they ſtrew ſeeds of Rape, Chick-weed, and Groundſell; which the Old Bird doth eat both at time of laying, and alſo when they have young ones: they put in the Houſe all ſorts of ſtuff for the building of their Neſts, they put Brooms up and down all the corners, one under another, and to the highth of the place that is built for the purpoſe; and make partitions between every Neſt, to make them breed the quieter, without diſturbing one another; and in the middle of the Room they will ſet a board edge-ways to darken the light of each ſide: for no Bird almoſt doth naturally love to have much light come to his Neſt. They plant a Tree or two, if the Houſe be big enough, one at each end, with many perches alſo along each ſide of the Houſe, and all along where they make their Neſts; and in the place that is the Air, it is alſo full of perches, they hang their ſtuff for building all up and down the Houſe, that the rain cannot come at it, and ſtrew ſome in the ground alſo; they make places very convenient every one according to his fancy, and for their Water alſo, ſome having fine Fountains in thoſe places, that are the out-lets for the Birds, to go at pleaſure into the Air, in which the Birds take very much delight to waſh and prune themſelves, and it makes the Seeds to grow up that are thrown in upon the Sand.

How to order them when they have young ones.

THey ſeldom take their Neſts away to bring them up by hand, as we do here, but they let the old Birds always bring them up; and when

they are pretty ſtout, and can crack hard Seeds, they have ſmall places for the young to come to feed, and they give them of all ſorts of Green-Seeds to feed upon, and have a kind of clap-door to take them: they ſay, if they do not ſoak Seeds for the Young ones, that very few will live, by reaſon the Hen is apt to forſake them, (and the Seeds being very hard, they pine away and die) and go to Neſt again. This Man alſo did truly affirm, they never came to any perfection till they came to have Birds of their own breeding in their own Countrey, and then being ſeaſoned to the Countrey they breed in abundance, furniſhing all *Poland*, *Germany*, and *France*, and of late years *England*, where they vent as many as any place in the World.

How to breed the Young ones that are taken out of the Neſt.

THeſe Birds muſt not be left too long in the Neſt, for if you do, they are very apt to grow ſullen, and will not feed kindly; therefore take them out about 9 or 10 days old, and put them in a little Basket, and cover them over with a Net, elſe they will be very ſubject to jump out upon the firſt opening of the Basket; and if they fall to the ground they will be bruiſed, and in a ſhort time conſequently die. You muſt keep them very warm for the firſt week, for they will be very tender, ſubject to the Cramp, and not digeſt their Meat if they take cold.

When you take them from the Old *Canaries*, take them in the Evening; and if you can poſſibly let the old Birds be out of ſight, otherwiſe they will be very apt to take diſtaſt when they ſit again, and have

have young ones; and will be apt at every fright to forsake both their Young and Eggs. When you have taken them out and put them in a Basket covered at top: Make their Meat after this manner; Take some of your largest Rape-Seeds, and soak them in water 24 hours or less, if the Water be a little warm, I think 12 hours will serve: drain the Water from the Seeds, and put a third part of white Bread to the Seeds, and a little Canary-Seed in flower, and so mix them all together; then having a small stick, take up a little at the end, and give every Bird some 2 or 3 times over; give them but a little at first, and often, for if you over-charge their Stomachs at the first, they seldom thrive after it; and also they will cast up their Meat, which is a sure sign they will not live long after it; Therefore take a great care at first to feed them by degrees, that so their Stomachs may be able to digest it; for you must understand, that the Old ones give them a little at a time, and the Meat they receive from them, is warmed in the Stomach before they give it them; and then all the Rape is huld, which lies not so hard at the Stomach as those Seeds which have the skins on. Therefore much care must be used at the first, to preserve their Stomachs and keep them in health. You must not make the Meat too dry, for then they will be apt to be vent-burnt, by reason all the Seeds are hot; for I have observed that the Old-Birds do constantly drink after they have eaten Seeds, and a little before they feed their Young ones; and they commonly after feeding of them, sit a quarter of an Hour or more, to keep them warm, that the Meat may better nourish them; therefore when you have fed them, cover them up

very warm, that their Meat may the better digeſt with them.

Diſeaſes of the Canary-Bird.

THe Nature of the *Canary-Bird* is never to be fat, nor to maintain or keep her Fleſh well, by reaſon of her great heat and laviſhneſs in ſinging. She's ſubject to ſeveral Diſtempers, as Impoſtumes, which happen upon her Head, and theſe are of a yellow colour, and cauſe a great heavineſs in the Head, and many times the Birds drop from their Perch and die within a ſhort time, if it be not cured at the firſt appearance. The beſt approved thing that I know of, is to make an Ointment of Freſh Butter and Capons-Greaſe melted together, and anoint the Top of the Birds Head for 2 or 3 days, and 'twill diſſolve it, and cure him; but if you let him alone too long, then after you have anointed him 3 or 4 times, ſee whether it be ſoft upon his Head; if it be, open it gently, and let out the Matter which will be like unto the Yolk of an Egg, then anoint the Place with ſome of the Ointment, and it will immediatly cure him without any further trouble: if you do perceive the Impoſtume at any time to return, do as you are before directed; you muſt give him Figgs, and in his Water let him have a ſlice or two of Liquoriſh, and ſome Sugar-candy.

The Old Birds above three years old are called *Runts*, and thoſe about two years old are called *Eriffes*, and thoſe of the firſt year that the old ones bring up, are *Branches*: When they can crack hard Seeds, and they call them that are new-flown and cannot feed themſelves, *Puſhers*; and thoſe that are bred up by hand, *Neſtlings*; which I do approve for

far better than any of the first, by reason of his tameness and familiarity with his Keeper, which is the chief pleasure of a Bird: For if a Bird be extraordinary, and not tame, but wild or buckish, there is no pleasure in feeding or hearing of him sing, being apt upon all occasions to bruise himself and to forsake his Singing when most desired.

Concerning the Linnet.

THey make their Nests in black Thorns and white-Thorns Bushes, and in furs-Bushes upon Heaths more than any-where else: They build their Nests with very small Roots, and other sort of stuff like unto Feathers, those that build in the Heaths; Those that build in the Hedges, build with Mos the out-side of their Nest, and line it within according as the Place will afford: Some hot-metled Birds will have young ones four times in a year, especially if they be taken from them before they fly out of their Nests. The hotter the Bird is in mettle, the sooner he breeds in the Spring. You may take the Young ones out at four days old, if you intend they shall learn to whistle, or hear any other Birds Song; for then they being so young, have not the Old Birds Song, and are more apt to take any thing, than if you suffer them to be in the Nest till they are almost quite fledged. You must be sure when you take them out so young, to keep them very warm, and to feed them but a little at a time. Your Meat must be soaked Rape-Seeds, and then bruise them, and put full as much soaked white-Bread as the Seeds: you must make fresh every day, for if it be sower, it immediately makes them scour, and not long after die. You must not

give them their Meat too dry, for if you do, it will make them vent-burned, and that's as bad as if they ſcoured. If you intend to whiſtle to them, do it when you feed them: For they will learn very much before they can crack hard Seeds; ſo hang them under any Bird that you intend, the *Linnet* ſhall learn his Song. The *Linnet* is a very apt Bird for any Tune or Song, if taken out of the Neſt very young: I have known ſeveral that have learnt to ſpeak, for there is nothing ſo hard, but labour and diligence will overcome. You may know the Cock-*Linnets* from the Hens by theſe two Marks; Firſt, by the Colour of the Back of the Birds; if it be of your dark-coloured *Linnets*, the Cocks are much browner than the Hens on the Back and Pinnion of the Wing; and ſo of the White-thorn Linnet, the Hens being much lighter-coloured than the Cocks. But obſerve this, that a Hen *Linnet* of the dark-Coloured Cock, is darker than the Cock of the light-Coloured *Linnet*. But the ſureſt way of all is, to know him by the White in his Wing.

This Bird is likewiſe troubled ſometimes with Melancholy, and then you will find the end of his Rump to be very much ſwelled, which you muſt prick with a Needle and let out all the Corruption, ſqueeſing of it out very well with the Point of the Needle; then anoint him with the Ointment made of freſh Butter and Capon-Greaſe, and feed him with ſome of theſe Herbs for two or three days; your Lettice and Beets-Seeds, and the Leaves alſo, and you may alſo give him the Seeds of Mellons chopped in pieces, which he will eat very greedily; and when you find him mend, take the Mellon-Seeds away, and give him of his old dyet again;

put

put into his Water two or three blades of Saffron and white Sugar-candy, for a week or more, till you perceive the Bird to be wholly recovered. The next Diſeaſe that this Bird is moſt troubled with, is a Scouring, which ſome are not ſo dangerous as others: The firſt ſort of Scouring, which I count not very hurtful, is very thin and with a black or white Subſtance in the middle: this is not very dangerous, for I have known very many ſing very ſtrong and laviſh, when they have had this Scouring in a very violent manner, and not been in the leaſt hurtful. The next ſort of Scouring is between a black and a white, but not ſo thin as the other, but is very clammy and ſticking, which is never very good in a Bird; this is recovered by giving your Bird at the firſt ſome Mellon-Seed ſhred, and Lettice-Seeds and Beet-Seeds bruiſed, and ſo give him in his Water ſome Liquoriſh and white Sugar-candy, with a little flower of Oat-Meal in the Water. You muſt be diligent at the firſt to obſerve him when he is ſick, that ſo he may have a ſtomach to eat, for in two or three days his Stomach will be quite gone, and then it will be hard recovering of him again. The next and worſt ſort of Scouring of all the three, is the white clamming Scouring; which is very bad and mortal, if it be not well looked after at the firſt: This is occaſioned by bad Seeds, and many times for want of Water, Seeds that have taken any dammage at Sea, or have been over-heated, or lain in the wet too long before they have been houſed, is a very great occaſion of this Diſtemper. If they be not taken at the firſt appearance, it immediately takes away his Stomach, and cauſeth him to droop & fall from his Meat immediately:

ately: Therefore obſerve this cure for him; In the firſt place give him Flax-Seeds, taking away all his other Seeds; then give him of your Plantain-Seed if it be green, otherwiſe it will do him no good; if you cannot get Plantain-Seeds, give him ſome of the Leaves ſhred very ſmall, and ſome Oat-Meal bruiſed with a few crums of Bread; and in his Water give him ſome white Sugar-candy and Liquoriſh, with a Blade or two of Saffron; You muſt obſerve, if you can poſſible, the firſt beginning of this Diſtemper, otherwiſe when his Stomach is loſt, all theſe Medicines ſignifie nothing.

How to know a Cock from a Hen.

THis Bird is a very good and melodious Bird in his kind, thoſe which are bred out of the Neſt proving much better than the Wild ones. There be two ſorts of *Linnets*, your black-Thorn and white-Thorn *Linnet*, or your black-Maled or white-Maled Bird, one being of a brown Plume, and the other of a light Grey: moſt do account the blacked Male the hardier Bird, and the hotter-metled Bird alſo. But I am of opinion that they all take after the Old ones, let the old ones be high-metled Birds, let them be Brown or Grey, the young Birds take after them, which is thus: Take your young Linnet when the Wing-Feathers are grown, and ſtretch out his Wing, holding of his Body faſt with the other hand (otherwiſe I have known them upon a ſudden jerk to break their Wings) and then obſerve the white upon the Feathers of the 4th, 5th, and 6th Feather, if it caſt a gliſtning white, and the white goes cloſe to the Quil; this is a ſure

ſign

ſign of a Cock: Take a Hen and a Cock together, and you ſhall perceive it better. This is the certaineſt way not to be deceived, to keep a Hen inſtead of a Cock, for it is not ſo much the coſt in keeping of the Bird, but our diſappointment in the expectation, of having ſome pleaſure after our trouble and care, eſpecially to them that take delight to whiſtle to him Tunes.

The ſeveral Diſeaſes that the Linnet is Subject to.

FIrſt, She is ſubject unto the Diſeaſe called the *Pthiſick*, which may eaſily be perceived by ſeeing him pant, and to heave his Belly faſt, and ſit melancholy, with his Feathers ſtanding big and ſtaring, and by the Belly when it ſhews it ſelf more puffed up than ordinary, full of reddiſh veins, and his Breaſt very lean and ſharp, and ſeeing him ſpill and caſt his Seeds about the Cage, not caring to eat at all. This Diſeaſe comes to the *Linnet* many times for want of Water, and having your Charlack-Seeds mingled amongſt your Rape-Seeds, and for want of giving him a little green meat at the Spring of the Year, when you perceive the Bird to begin to be troubled with this Diſeaſe, firſt to cut the end of his Rump, and to give him ſome white Sugar-candy in his Water, with two or three ſlices of Liquoriſh; for want of Sugar-candy, let him put in fine Sugar: And for his Meat you ſhall give him Beets, Lettice, to feed upon, or ſome of the Herb called *Mercurie*, which is a very good Herb for this Diſtemper for any Seed-Bird: you may likewiſe give her Mellon-Seeds chopped ſmall, and at the

the bottom of the Cage put ſome fine Gravel with a little Powder-Sugar, and a little ground Oat-Meal; you may put alſo ſome Loom, that the Country-People do daub their Walls withal inſtead of Morter and Sand, every one almoſt knows; bruiſe this ſmall, and it will bring him to a Stomach, if he be not too far gone and paſt cure. The *Linnet* is alſo ſubject unto the Streins or Convulſions of the Breaſt, wherefore being oppreſſed with this Diſeaſe, you ſhall feed him with Lettice-Seeds, Beet-Seeds, and Mellon-Seeds bruiſed; and in his Water you ſhall diſſiolve ſome Sugar-candy, and ſome of the Nightingal's Paſte, with a little Liquoriſh, ſo much that the Water may have a taſte of it, and ſo continue it for the ſpace of four, or five days, now and then taking of it away, and giving her Plantain-Water: be ſure to give her a Beet-Leaf, or Lettice-Leaf upon the day that you give her Plantain-Water. The *Linnet* is alſo ſubject unto a Hoarſneſs in his Voice, which many times comes through ſtraining her Voice in ſinging, and many times ſhe gets a Huſk in her Throat, which is ſeldom helped to come ſo clear off at firſt: many times alſo if it be a ſtrong-metled Bird, he will break ſomething within him, that he will never come to ſing again, for the hoarſneſs which is very often taken in his Mouth, which is thus, to keep him very hot, and upon a ſudden to open his Cage to the Air, which immediately ſtrikes a cold to his Breaſt and Throat, and oftentimes kills him; for if you have a Bird in the Moult, you muſt not carry him to the Air, but keep him at a ſtay till he is moulted off, and then open him by degrees, that ſo he may not take cold; and give him after his

Moult

Moult ſomething to cleanſe him, your Beet-leaves and ſome Liquoriſh in his Water: There is no better Remedy in the World for a hoarſneſs, than to put into his Water ſome Liquoriſh, and a few Anniſe-Seeds, and then ſet him in a warm place. The *Linnet* is alſo ſubject to a great Scouring, I gave you an account of ſeveral ſorts of them in the foregoing Chapter, where I treated of the *Canary-Bird*.

Concerning the Gold-Finch.

THe next to the *Linnet* of Seed-Birds is the *Golden-Finch*, which is a very rare and curious-coloured Bird, and were they not ſo plenty, they would be of very great eſteem amongſt us here; but plenty of any thing makes it ſlighted, and not regarded. This Bird is taken in great plenty about Michaelmaſs time, and will very ſoon become tame; the Beautifulneſs, with the pretty melodious Song that this Bird hath, cauſes very many to keep them: (They were formerly carried beyond Sea to ſeveral places for a very great Rarity.) Theſe *Gold-Finches* differ very much in their Tunes, for ſome of them ſing after one faſhion, and ſome after another, which needed not further be proved but by them that have kept them, for it is in this Bird as in all others variety, one Bird ſurpaſſing another, both in goodneſs, variety, and laviſhneſs of Song: They breed commonly in your Apple-Trees and Plum-Trees; and to my knowledg I never ſaw a Neſt in a quickſet-Hedge. They make their Neſt of Moſs that grows upon Apple-Trees and Wool, and Quilt the inſide with all ſorts of Hair they find

upon

upon the Ground: they breed three times in a year. You muſt take young ones with the Neſt about ten days old, and they muſt be fed thus: Take ſome of your beſt Hemp-ſeed, and beat it in a Morter very fine, then ſift it through a Sieve, and put as much white-Bread as Hemp-Seed, and put alſo a little flower of Canary-Seeds to it; ſo with a ſmall ſtick or quill take up as much as the bignes of a white Pea, and give them three or four bits at a time: you muſt make it freſh every day, it is ſoon done when the Hemp-Seeds are bruiſed and ſifted; if it be ſower it will immediately ſpoil their Stomachs, and cauſe them to caſt up their Meat, and then it is ten to one if they live. You muſt be ſure to keep theſe Birds very warm till they can feed themſelves, for they are very tender Birds, you may almoſt bring them up to any thing being a very tame Bird; be ſure that in feeding of this Bird you make clean his Bill and Mouth, and if any of the Meat fall upon his Feathers take it off, otherwiſe they will not thrive. This Bird that eats Hemp-Seeds, ſhall take for a Purge the Seeds of Mellons, Succory and Mercurie, which is a principal Herb for the *Linnet*, but this Bird you may give Lettice and Plantain, which are excellent Herbs for this Bird to purge him; and when they have no need of purging, you muſt give them two or three times a week a little Sugar or ſome Loom in their Meat, or at the bottom of their Cage; to this end they may eat ſome to ſcour their Stomachs, which for want thereof is the great deſtruction of our Birds that feed upon Seeds: For nothing can be more wholeſome for them than Wall or Loom-Earth and ſome fine Sand, and a lump or knob or two of Sugar always

in

in their Cage; for all Seeds have a great oilineſs in them, and if they have not ſomething to dry up that Oilineſs in the Stomach, in length of time it fouls their Stomachs, and puts them into a Flux, and nothing is worſe than unſound and damaged Seeds, which in a ſhort time deſtroyes them.

Concerning the Chaff-Finch.

THis Bird is a very plentiful Bird, and of ſome is much admired for his Song; but I have no great fancy for him, by reaſon he ſeldom varies in his Song like unto other Birds, and hath no pleaſingneſs nor ſweetneſs in his Song like unto the aforementioned Birds. At flight-time this Bird is very plentifully caught, but their Neſts are very ſcanty found, as of the *Gold-Finch* alſo. This Bird breeds in hedges& Trees of all ſorts, and makes his Neſt of Moſs and Wool, or any thing almoſt that he can gather up where ſhe breeds. They have young ones two or three times a year, but they are ſeldom bred up from the Neſt, being no Bird that is apt to take another Birds Song, nor to whiſtle; ſo they let the Old one breed them up that they may have the true Song. Your *Eſſex-Finches* are in all Men's Opinions accounted the Beſt, both for length of ſong, and variety, ſhe ending with ſeveral notes, which is very pretty: I do not know but this Bird, if he were made tryal of, might not only take the notes of any other Bird, but alſo may be brought up to whiſtle any Tune, as well as the *Canary* or *Linnet*; and I am confident it is a hardier Bird than either of them, by reaſon he will almoſt live upon any Seeds, none coming amiſs to him: he is very ſeldom ſubject

to

to any Diſeaſe, like the *Canary-Bird* or *Linnet*: This Bird will be very Louſie, if he be not ſprinkled with a little Wine two or three times a month.

Concerning the Green-Finch.

THis Bird is of a very mean Song, and yet is kept by a great many people for his cheapneſs and hardineſs, and by moſt people to ring the Bells, being a good-bodied heavy Bird. This Bird is plentiful in every Country, and breeds the fillieſt of any, making commonly his Neſt by the High-way-ſide, where every Boy finds them, and deſtroys them at firſt, till the Hedges are pretty well covered with green Leaves. They breed very early in the Spring before the Hedges have leaves upon them, which cauſes every one to ſee their Neſts at firſt, ſo that ſeldom their firſt Neſts come to any thing. They build with Moſs that is green that grows at the bottom of Hedges, and quilt their Neſt very ſorrily within; and many times they are ſo ſlight, that a great Wind ſhakes them to pieces, and drops both young ones and eggs. They breed three times in a year, and the Young is a very hardy Bird to be brought up: You may feed them with ſome white-Bread and Rape ſoaked; and he is a very apt Bird to take the Whiſtle, rather than another Birds Song: All that can be ſaid of him, he is a very dull Bird, not having the Spirit of a *Canary-Bird*, not a *Linnet*; for he will never kill himſelf with ſinging or whiſtling. I have heard ſome have given great commendation of him, to learn to whiſtle as well as any Bird whatſoever, and that he will not be ſubject o take any Birds Song to put him out of his Notes.

He

He is seldome subject to any Disease but to be too fat; and of Seed-Birds there is none like him for growing so excessive fat, if you give him Hemp-Seeds, then he is good for nothing but the spit, therefore give him no other but Rape-Seeds.

The way to know how many Diseases and Maladies all Singing-Birds are subject to.

FIrst, the Diseases are divers according to every Birds Food, and this diversity causeth divers effects and divers signs, which being hid, the Disease to our outward apprehension is unknown, and so there is no administring of any thing, in as much as it is not known from whence is the true Ground and Original of the Disease; so that no Medicine or Remedy can with any certainty be made convenient for true Cure of the Distemper: wherefore it is very necessary that there should be had a good regard and inspection unto the outward Signs, to know the ground of the Distemper that lies and lurketh within, and that no less in the behalf of Birds, than generally of all other Creatures: therefore I shall now endeavour briefly to gather and collect (according to my best skill and knowledg) in this Chapter what hath been scatteringly delivered in other places, touching the Infirmities and Diseases of all kind of Singing-Birds and Diseases thereof, for the benefit and instruction of such as would know the Diseases whereunto such Birds as they delight in, and love to keep for their own pleasure, are subject to.

First,

Firſt, Birds are ſubject, amongſt other Diſeaſes, unto *Impoſthumes*; which do happen unto them, and appear in the Head of a yellow Colour, as big as a Hemp-Seed, ſometimes as big as a Pea; a Diſeaſe commonly haunting all Birds, eſpecially thoſe which are of a hot Complexion.

The Second kind of Diſeaſe with which moſt Birds are troubled, is a ſubtile Diſeaſe called *Pthiſis*; for thoſe Birds that are troubled with this Diſeaſe, do moſt commonly ſwell in their Bodies, and you may perceive, if you make a narrow ſearch, their Breaſt is beſet with veins full of Blood, though at that time the Bird be very ſharp and thin, and very lean upon the Breaſt; and thoſe Birds that are afflicted with this Diſeaſe, cannot well digeſt their Meat, but are ſubject to caſt and overturn their Meat in their Stomach, ſo in a ſhort time the Bird conſumes away and dies.

The third ſort of Diſeaſe is the *Gout*, which is very common to Birds that have been kept long in the Cage, it cauſes a ſore vexing pain in his Feet and Leggs, and cauſes them many times to forſake their Meat, by reaſon they can neither ſtir nor ſtand with any pleaſure, but on the contrary a remaining Pain and vexation. This Diſeaſe is known by much roughneſs in the Leggs and Feet, and ſwellings alſo, which are in the Feet, and Leggs, and Knee, where moſt commonly it troubles them worſt of all.

The fourth Diſeaſe is *difficulty of Breathing*, or hard and troubleſome drawing of their Breath; and this is known by the Hoarſneſs in their Throats, that they cannot utter the Tunes and Notes with any pleaſure to themſelves or Keepers: for if they do, they do it ſo harſhly and imperfectly, that it is

as

as good they were ſilent. And furthermore, if you lay your Hand upon his Breaſt, or diligently mark him as he ſits upon his Pearch, you ſhall eaſily perceive it by his extraordinary beating, as it were ſhewing himſelf that he is very much troubled with a very great oppreſſion and difficulty of breathing; and if you lay your Hand upon his Breaſt, it ſhall beat againſt your Hand as if he had ſome live-thing in his Body: by all which Symptoms you may juſtly gather and conclude that he is moſt certainly infected with this Diſeaſe oftentimes, eſpecially if it be a high-metled Bird, and he hear another ſing, and is not able to come near him by reaſon of this Diſeaſe: he will caſt forth lamentable noiſes, as if he were ſenſible of his own Diſeaſes. This evidently declareth that he hath this Diſeaſe called *Aſthma*, or ſhortneſs of Breath.

The 5th Diſeaſe ſubject to Singing-Birds is *Blindneſs*, which oftentimes happens by extraordinary ſinging, each Bird ſtriving to outvie the other in Song. This muſt be quickly helped upon the firſt appearance, or they will never be cured; and this Diſeaſe is at firſt perceived by the trickling of tears from their Eyes, and by certain Feathers that are about their Ears, which immediatly do curl and crook by turning in again.

The 6th Diſeaſe is the *Falling-Sickneſs*, which is likewiſe incident unto very many Birds, whereof without diligent care & obſervation, theyare ſeldom or never cured; for I could never find any other Remedy for it, but this; To keep the Birds which you bring up, (and eſpecially *Bull-Finches*) from the heat of the Sun all the Summer long, and at the fall of the Leaf cut all the Nails of his Feet to the

very quick, and pull 5, or 6 of his Tail-Feathers, and when he mouts, beſprinkle him with a little White-Wine and Water, and ſet him not in the Sun, but let him dry himſelf all times in the Shade, and give once in a Week ſomething to purge him.

The 7th Diſeaſe that Birds are ſubject to is the *Pip*, which may be known by the hardneſs of the end of their Tongue, and alſo by the ſides of their Bills: Your ſmall-Birds that feed upon Seeds are very ſeldom ſubject to this Diſeaſe, but moſt commonly your *Throſtles*, *Black-Birds*, and *Staires*, which feed upon ſoft Meat. I have alſo known your *Nightingales* to be troubled with it, that have been fed too much with Eggs boild hard. For the Remedy of this (for the Bird will never eat his Meat kindly, nor ſing with any Stomach ſo long as he hath it) take the Bird in your Hand, and having opened his Bill with a Needle, take that hardneſs off from the top of his Tongue, and the ſides of his Bill alſo; then give him the Seeds of Mellons, being bruiſed and ſteeped in pure Water, let him drink thereof three or four days; then when you perceive him to grow better, and to take delight to prune and peck himſelf, give him a little fine Loaf-Sugar, and put into his Water alſo. To keep your *Black-Bird* and *Throſtle* from this Diſtemper, give them once in a week a little painted fine-Coloured Snaile, and lay him a Stone in his Cage, and he will break him to peeces and eat him, and this will preſerve thoſe two Birds from having a Fit.

The 8th is the Diſeaſe of the Rump, which is hard to be known, and no other way that I could ever find to be a better ſign, than the Bird growing Melancholy, as by ſurceaſing and abſtaining from

from ſinging: And the beſt Remedy is, to cut off that ſharp part which lyes upon the top of the Rump, and give him ſome cleanſing thing in his Meat, and refreſhing thing in his Water, and he ſhall find great good by it. This is a grief which all Birds are ſubject to, which are kept in Cages: for if they have their liberty and are abroad, every Bird hath his certain Medicine for every Diſtemper he is ſubject to; for I have obſerved it many times when *Linnets* feed moſt upon Chick-weed and plantain-Seeds, that they have come as duely to a Chalk-pit every morning, as they have gone to bed at night, and picked Chalk to bind them.

The laſt Diſeaſe Birds are ſubject to, is the Flux of the Belly, which is known by their making of their Dung thinner and more liquid than ordinary, and by often ſhaking and beating of their Tail, and keeping of it cloſe together. The Remedy is to cut the Feathers of his Tail, and alſo thoſe which are about the Fundament; anointing it with a little Capons-greaſe, and inſtead of Hemp-ſeeds or Rape-Seeds, give him Mellon-Seeds, and Red Beets-Seeds bruiſed for the ſpace of three or four days, till you perceive his Dung altered: And you muſt do this at firſt, otherwiſe it will not help when the bird is waſted and poor. But for thoſe Birds which eat not Seeds, but Sheeps-heart or paſte, give them a very hard roaſted Egg, in ſuch ſort as you have been before directed.

The several Diseases which happen to every particular sort of Bird.

FIrst, The Old *Nightingales* that are kept long in a Cage, are very subject (if not kept very clean) to the *Gout*, and if their Meat be not chopped very well, to the Convulsion of the Breast, with the Falling-Sickness and Giddiness in their Heads.

The *Wood-Lark* is very subject to be Loustie, and to be Melancholy, and troubled with the straitness of the Breast, which causes them to pine away in a short time if not helped, and then a Flux of the Belly, which if not immediately helped, it consumes them to nothing.

The *Skie-Lark* is also subject to all the same Infirmities of the *Wood-lark*, except it be Loustiness.

The *Robin* is subject to the Cramp, to a great Giddiness in his Head, and to have the ends of his Nails perish, if he be not kept clean in his Cage; and will be very subject to the Falling-Sickness, if it be not prevented.

Almost all your Birds that feed upon Flesh have almost all the same Distempers, except the *Black-Bird* and *Throstle*, which seldom almost die, without it be for want of Meat or Water.

The *Canary-Bird* hath many Diseases that he is subject to, as to the Giddiness in his Head, Falling-Sickness, Convulsion, and Oppression of Stomach and Breast, by reason of her excessive heat; and also very subject to a Flux in the Belly, which if not timely prevented, causes present death.

The *Linnet*, and all other Seed-Birds are subject almost to the foregoing Distempers, but none so

apt

apt to the Falling-Sickneſs as the *Bull-Finch.* I think theſe Rules and Deſcriptions for Diſeaſes are ſufficient for any ordinary underſtanding.

To know how long Birds ſhall live.

IF any Man be deſirous to know how long theſe Singing-Birds may live, let him underſtand that amongſt Nightingales ſome live but one year, ſome three, ſome five, others unto eight, and till twelve, and ſing very well, rather better and better, for the firſt eighth years, but after that they do a little decline by degrees, and from that time forward are not in ſuch a hight of perfection, but decline by little and little: They muſt have very good Maſters and Keepers that do prolong their Lives three or four years; and where one is kept in a Cage till that Age, a hundred die; ſo it's the carefulneſs of the Keeper preſerves the Life of Birds. It hath been known that *Nightingales* have been kept and lived till fifteen years old, and have continued ſinging little or much for the moſt part of all the years; ſo that you may plainly perceive their Life depends much according to the good or ill management, or elſe according to the good Complexion of the Bird.

The *Wood-Lark* ſeldom lives in a Cage above five years, by reaſon he is a tender Bird, and ſubject to many Caſualties, and we are ignorant of what they eat abroad to preſerve themſelves.

The *Robin* ſeldom lives above ſeven years, by reaſon he is ſo ſubject to the Falling-ſickneſs, and Cramp, and oppreſſion of the Stomach.

The *Skie-Lark* is a very long-lived Bird, and hardy alſo, and there is not much fear of his Death, if you provide him a Turf once in a Week, and give him Meat and Water plentifully. All ſorts of Seed-Birds live longer than any ſoft-beaked Birds, eſpecially the *Canary* and *Linnet*, ſome having been Maſter of a *Canary* twenty years, and a *Linnet* alſo. But there are Diſeaſes amongſt Birds, as amongſt all ſorts of Cattle, which, if not timely prevented, make a very great ſlaughter.

Now I have done with all ſorts of Singing-Birds, I ſhall give you ſome ſhort directions about ſome Whiſtling-Birds; And thoſe that have no ſong, that are not worth keeping for ſinging.

As firſt, The *Sterling*, which is moſt generally kept of all ſorts of people, above any other Birds for whiſtling; and the great fault almoſt in all people is, that they have them too fledg'd out of the Neſt, and that makes them retain ſo much commonly of their own harſh notes; Therefore thoſe that do intend to have them rare, and avoid their own ſqueeking notes, take them from the Old ones at two or three days old; do ſo in all Birds that you intend ſhall learn to whiſtle or ſpeak, and learn another Birds ſong by hanging under him.

The next is the *Bull-Finch*, which hath no ſong of his own, nor whiſtle neither, but is a very apt Bird to learn if taught by the Mouth.

The next is a *Black-Bird*, which hath a kind of a rude Whiſtle, and will learn very well, if taken young enough out of the Neſt; for moſt people to ſpare themſelves a little more trouble than ordinary, deſire to have them very fledg'd, and ſo they retain ſo much of the Old Birds Song, that moſt take

treble

treble the pains they need, and the others have them much better.

The *Robin Red-breast* is an excellent Bird for the Whistle, and to speak also; but this is the misery of most People, they breed so many together, that one spoils another: for a *Robin* is a hot-metled Bird, and must not be in the hearing of another; therefore if you breed two, have them in several rooms, that they may not hear each other, and so consequently spoil one another.

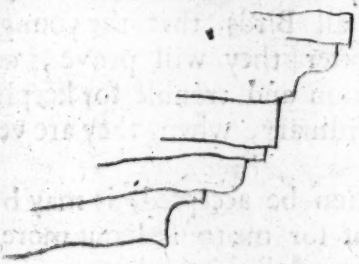
The next for whistling of Seed-Birds, is your *Canary-Bird*, which will learn any thing almost, if taken very young out of the Nest, otherwise not; for he is an exceeding hot-metled Bird, and will run upon his own Song do what you can.

The next is the *Linnet*, which will learn almost any tune if not too long and too much variety; for you must not teach any Bird after the *Flaggellet*, or your Mouth, that are too long or too much variety: Learn them one tune first, and then proceed to another, and keep him dark and still, out of the noise of other Birds, for he is very apt to remember any Roguery above a Tune. Take this for a general rule for all Birds, that the younger the Birds be, the better they will prove, and answer your expectation and trouble for keeping them ten days extraordinary, when they are very young.

If what I have written be accepted, it may be a further encouragement for me to seek out more of the secrets of Nature; for of all things that were created, nothing praises and sets forth the Creator, amongst Animal Creatures, more than these poor

harmleſs birds. And it is a thing much to be obſerved, that of all the Animal Creatures that ever were made, none can learn, or by any means be taught to ſpeak but the Bird.

F I N I S.



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